■ ENTERTAINMENT
Guess list on Dollywood: This mother and daughter are feeding on illusion

■ WWW.INQ7.NET
Complete list of new doctors

■ WORLD / A8
Over 650 Iraqi Shiites killed in bridge stampede

■ NEWS / A2
Terrorists share bomb designs, say gov't reports

Colder 'ber months' here; 10 more typhoons expected

By Blanche S. Rivera

FILIPINOS should brace themselves for gusts that can shatter and loosen up volcanic [illegible]. So, while a political storm is clustering the administ-

COLUMN A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Caloocan bishop admits receiving Pagcor money

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHILE the powerful Roman Catholic hierarchy in the Philippines officially frowns on receiving money from gambling interests, at least one bishop admits using funding from the controversial Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) for the benefit of the poor.

COLUMN A6

Wednesday, September 1, 2005 ● 38 pages / vol. 20 / no. 283
website: www.inq7.net

6 votes shy to impeach

President's men uphold Lozano case, then kill it

By Michael Lim Ubac

FIRST, pro-Arroyo lawmakers yesterday overwhelmingly upheld the impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano and endorsed by their administration colleagues.

Then minutes later, the House justice committee abruptly killed the amended complaint signed by 51 congressmen from Lozano.

The committee then voted to declare the Lozano complaint sufficient in form. By night-fall, the committee decided to kill the Lozano complaint as well.

The amended impeachment complaint lodged by the opposition met a "natural death" when the justice committee voting to declare that the first complaint filed by Lozano had barred the filing of the new one.

"That the impeachment complaint meets its natural death brought to a logical result of the final and unbridled humiliation upon which it was inserted and propelled," said Rep. Antonio Cuenco, explaining up the arguments of allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo in pushing the crushing of the amended complaint and the Lozano complaint.

Cuenco, chair of the House foreign affairs committee and member of the justice committee, said the majority should not be "fooled by the public perception that the opposition has defeated the amended complaint to be incorpo-

PROCEEDINGS, A10

HOW CAN YOU TELL that 'is an icon? Rep. Democrito Mendoza Jr. (center) congratulates colleagues Benjamin Macalintal (left) and Rep. Edcel Lagman (right) after the House committee on justice voted to kill the impeachment complaint against President Arroyo. Mendoza, chair of the committee on public information, said the committee had "performed its duty" by voting to junk the complaint filed by Lozano. | Photo by Jay Morales

IN THE KNOW

3 impeachment complaints

THE FIRST complaint was filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano on the morning of June 27 and endorsed the next day by administration Rep. Rodolfo Mendoza (party-list, Abiguil). The five-page complaint said President Macapagal-Arroyo's admission that she didn't quite remember the "full details" of her conversation with Garcillano had put her credibility in doubt, allowed the amended complaint to be incorpo-

PROCEEDINGS, A10

Opposition shoots for 79 solons by Monday

By Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

RACING against time, opposition lawmakers yesterday said they had gathered 73 votes and needed only six more signatures to move the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediate trial in the Senate.

Majority's trials walled out of proceedings on Tuesday in the House justice committee, sensing they would not get headway in their attempts to unseat the Arroyo. Instead, the opposition concentrated on gathering support.

Rep. Edmund Reyes told the committee that the House secretary general had received 98 endorsement papers. In addition, Reyes said he had the names of 25 congressmen who had committed to endorse an amended impeachment complaint as soon as the 79 signatures had been obtained or exceeded.

"We will stick to the agreement not to reveal the names unless the 79 signatures are achieved," said Reyes.

For the truth to come out, the Filipino people need all more signatures of the House to endorse this amended complaint. Just six more, for only 79 members of the House on the side of the truth! Is there anyone else? Is

CONTINUED, A10

Dozens hurt in clash outside Batasan

By Oi Yap and TJ Burgonio

DOZENS of people, including a young boy, were hurt yesterday after riot police used their batons to disperse militants who fought back by pelting the policemen with rocks in front of the House of Representatives where the justice committee was holding hearings on the impeachment complaints against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

At least 20 protesters were brought to the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City for treatment. Eight policemen, on the other hand, sustained bruises after getting hit by the rocks thrown by militants during the fight.

Most of the victims had minor contusions and bruises, but a number of them had open wounds in the head, including president Phivos Bandalaro said.

One of those hurt was Nicanor Mid, a 7-year-old boy who had accompanied his mother Loreta, an Alabayan member, to the demonstration, the protesters said.

Orang Halasa, also of Alabayan and a neighbor of the Mids, said the boy was just buying

CONTINUED, A10

BLOODIED AND BOWED, protesters flee after a clash with antiriot policemen who literally used their truncheons to disperse a rally demanding the resignation of President Arroyo outside the Batasang Pambansa.

Is this the end for anti-GMA forces in House?

By Philip C. Tubeza

IS ALL lost for the amended impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo? It depends on who's talking.

In the opinion of Lagman, de Ore-

Rep. Constantino Jaraula, the amended complaint cannot be revived even if the pro-impeachment camp secures the 79 votes required for the Senate to start the impeachment trial.

Jaraula, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments and a member of the committee on justice, said that under the House impeachment rules, not even the 79 votes could overturn the committee's decision to summarily vote the initial complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano.

"The plenary cannot go beyond the committee report, and (that report will) be about the Lozano complaint. We cannot go back to the amended complaint," he said.

According to Jaraula, any attempt at impeachment to be constitutional before the

A TWO-PAGE

Katrina fury sends oil prices surging back past $70

AN EMERGENCY rescue in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, rescuers clumbly wrap on the roof of their suburban home due to heavy flooding at the height of Hurricane Katrina.

HOUSTON, America—Extensive damage to oil platforms and refineries in the Gulf of Mexico sent crude oil prices surging back above $70 on Wednesday as the realities of the long-term effects of Hurricane Katrina began to sink in. But the most pressing concern was gasoline.

Destruction to refineries churning out much of the unleaded regular and premium grade used in the United States was sure to drain pipelines already tight supplies, driving prices up not only on the trading floor but also at the pumps. (See story in The World, Page A8.)

In a reflection of what still some life on owners in their wallets, gasoline prices, which stood up 20 percent on Tuesday on the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex), surged climbing Wednesday. Unleaded gasoline was trading at US$2.3585 a gallon (3.8 liters) by midday in Europe, up more than 6 cents for a new record.

Heating oil fell marginally to US$2.4766 a gallon, reflecting expectations that US figures due out later Wednesday will show no re-

CONTINUED, A11

21st birthday saves day for Fil-Am family

DELAN, Washington—A family of immigrants from the Philippines is one step closer to being able to stay in the United States, thanks to a daughter's 21st birthday.

It was that birthday that allowed the parents of Stephanie Agnado, who moved their family to the United States in 1998, to succeed in their paperwork to obtain permanent residency.

Stephanie, who turned 21 on June 15, is still citizen by birth, having been born here when her family was briefly in transition before.

That allowed her to petition the government for a permanent visa before parents turn the to next 21.

CONTINUED, A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2005

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Terrorists share bomb designs

AL-QAIDA'S Southeast Asian ally is sharing bomb-making expertise with Muslim militants in the Philippines, providing at least nine explosive designs and eight chemical recipes to help ragtag insurgents become more lethal, according to government reports.

The revelation [illegible] people killed in the Superferry bombing, extortion letter attacks, a series of high-tech explosives and close cooperation among local and foreign militants using the southern Philippines as a training ground following the loss of al-Qaeda camps in Afghanistan.

While US-backed offensives have overrun established camps in the Mindanao region in the last decade of years, training by al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah's Indonesian operatives has continued on a limited basis with militants setting up classes and sharing attacks, police and military intelligence officers told The Associated Press.

One security official told Mindanao "is like a cancer we can't cure" with volunteers sought here to make bombs, plant them, then set them off in vast numbers designed to help militants perfect their techniques to complete the course.

Jemaah Islamiyah militants appear to be concentrating on making novel designs and triggers, area reporters, and officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the information. Previously many Philippine militants, especially Abu Sayyaf rebels, had relied on simple hand and rocket-propelled grenades to attack civilian targets.

Investigators looking into Sunday's bombing of a passenger ferry while it was heading to Lantian Island, injuring 34 people, said it appeared to be designed more to sow panic than kill, but that it was not really a specialist on the design.

A number of recent bombs — placed together from fragments found at attack sites or recovered from Philippine rebel Indonesia — carry Jemaah Islamiyah's signature: the use of electronic switches, including Indonesian-designed integrated circuit boards, and cell phones that allow more efficiency and flexibility as triggers, according to several investigation reports seen by AP.

Making detonators difficult, the attackers use mundane items — a TV set, egg carton, a bit of wireless, even a tube of toothpaste, a roll on deodorant or shampoo bottle — to hide the bombs and their components.

More powerful chemical mixtures are used before by local militants do have been detected a bombing scene in recent years, the reports said.

The new witnesses give the militants more leeway in attaining a particular effect. Some spark from to create maximum targets; others are designed to kill and destroy.

Authorities said they have detained evidence of al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah "training and technology transfer" in bomb devices for the past four to five years.

Such international cooperation and newer technology exchanges is not entirely new.

When police in 1995 raided the Manila apartment of Ramzi Yousef, the convicted mastermind of the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, they found several juice bottles filled with the same powerful explosives used in that attack and a brand of quartz alarm clock timer used in a bombing in Iraq.

Most of the bombs used in attacks in the Philippines and Indonesia are believed to have been designed by Jemaah Islamiyah's top experts, including Dulmatin, a Bali bombing suspect and electronics expert also known as Commando, the reports said.

The news has been hunting for Dulmatin, along with at least nine other Indonesian militants, in the region of Mindanao, where he thought to have joined the group of Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khaddafy Janjalani, the military said.

AP

Bombs of al-Qaida

- Feb. 14, 2005: Three bombs successively explode in Manila, General Santos and Davao, killing four and wounding 60.
- Oct. 24, 2004: A TNT bomb is found and defused inside a passenger bus in Manila's crowded Quiapo district. It included an electronic pair commonly used by the Jemaah Islamiyah.
- March 2004: Three Manila cell phone–based [illegible] explode in Davao's Santos after they ordered another. The bombs had detailed circuitry designs used by Jemaah Islamiyah.
- Feb. 27, 2004: TNT packed in a TV set explodes and ignites an inferno that kills 116 people aboard a ferry in Manila Bay. Authorities say this bomb was a domestic Islamiyah design.
- March 7, 2003: A bomb in a backpack planted by explosive in southern Tacurong City, killing a Muslim militant riding a motorcycle.
- Feb. 28, 2003: Several kilos of TNT powder attached to an electronic timer and rigged in the pan tank of a small van explodes near the gate of a airport in southern Maguindanao province, killing a soldier and wounding six civilians. Security officials say an Indonesian militant from Jemaah Islamiyah supplied the bomb.
- April 24, 2002: Three bombs simultaneously go off in General Santos, killing 14 and wounding more than 60. A member of suspected Abu Sayyaf members are arrested and charged, according to officials believe Jemaah Islamiyah bomb expert Zulkifli Bin Hir personally tied the attacks to retaliate for US attacks abroad.
- Dec. 30, 2000: Five bombs, including an explosive-rigged car, almost simultaneously explode across metropolitan Manila, killing 22 people and wounding more than 100.

Terror alarm raised anew

By Ed C. Catanangan Jr.

BALACANAN: [illegible] raised anew the terrorism bogey yesterday as it warned that Metro Manila could be the target of a new wave of terrorist attacks that could involve the weapons of mass destruction, dirty bombs, and biological weapons.

Similar to the global oil crisis threatening the economy, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales appealed to the opposition to the midst of impeaching President Macapagal-Arroyo to treat the terrorist threat as very serious and that is required the full attention of government officials.

Gonzales said the government needed everybody's help, including the opposition's, because it was "virtually impossible to stop terrorist attacks." The President's adviser appealed for the government's cooperation on the oil crisis because the government could not do anything about stopping oil prices.

While the administration and the opposition Lawmakers had cooperated very well before the current political crisis, Gonzales said that Congress has become too busy appearing the anti-terror bill.

In a briefing, Gonzales disputed that his group had gathered "enemy disturbing information that terrorists might be planning a major attack in National Capital Region [Metro Manila]."

No chit-chat

"They are now in serious stage of planning a new wave of terror. We have to weigh consequences of either pursuing our pursuits or just keeping quiet with what we know," said Gonzales who preferred that the public continue to be scared but not to the point of panicking. Gonzales said his warnings were based on what they have picked up from inter-cepted communication among the terrorists ("There are no more chit-chat") and monitoring of fund inflow and spending by suspected terrorists.

He said that terrorist attacks normally come in a month cycle and he expects the next wave to hit before the third week of September.

Gonzales and the authorities were worried that 400 kilos of explosives (supposedly part of the explosives cache of 600 kilos confiscated last February) could be floating around in Metro Manila and that some of the 13 Indonesian bombers suspected to be in the Philippines could have influenced local terrorists.

Gonzales said that if terrorists have the capability to detonate a 1,000-kilo bomb, the cleared that they have been advanced in their technical capability to execute heinous havoc.

Next range

"The next range would be using weapons of mass destruction, like nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. This is the next stage we are looking at," said Gonzales, who suggested that the government step in Asian-wide response program to contain terrorism in the world

METRO
Edited by Ester G. Dycaoco

Half of Metro jeeps can't raise fare – LTFRB

By Clarissa S. Santos

POOR out of 10 jeeps plying the Metro route have no right to charge higher fares, according to the land transportation franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

LTFRB chair Alma Elena Bustena said that starting Sept. 15, updated LTFRB agents would start counting after public utility vehicles that failed to heed yesterday's last deadline to refile their documents and get their fare increases.

The agency also said on out of 10 non-aircon Metro buses and more than nine out of 10 provincial non-aircon buses should not impose the fare hike.

Each time there is a fare hike, the LTFRB collects P5,000 in filing fee from PUVs, which includes one free fare increase and P40 for franchise verification. An extra fare must cost no P50.

Only Six Metro air-con buses, all 1,527 of them, had paid these fees enrolling them to the P1 Fare Increase, and have received their fare increases. Metro air-con buses have not now pegged at P10 for the first five kilometers and P1.75 for every succeeding distance.

Two bus groups, meanwhile, filed a joint petition for a P1.0 fare increase before the LTFRB the other day.

The Association of Taxi Operators and Drivers in Metro Manila and the Philippine National Taxi Operators Association sought a P35 add-on meter rate to cover the 31 percent increase in gasoline prices since September 2004 when the LTFRB approved the last groups' petition for a P1 hike in flag down rates.

Virgie Mendiola, lawyer for the taxi groups, said the two organizations asked the LTFRB not to require cabs to calibrate their meters and to allow taxi drivers to collect an additional P15 on the amount reflected in the meters.

The fare increase, according to the drivers, would benefit only the drivers whose take home pay had dropped by P600 a day because of the 9% increase in gasoline prices.

Mendiola said a cab consumes 40 liters to operate 24 hours. A P15-liter hike, he said, would mean only a 37 percent increase in cab fares, since taxi passengers pay an average of P30.

In effect, the taxi fare hike would leave them the 26 percent increase in minimum jeepney fare of P2 or P7.50, plus a 20 percent hike for additional distance.

Bustena said the fuel formula cab fare to increase more than 20,000 jeeps and buses in Metro Manila that have not paid their dues and secured their fare increases and, she, could be charging higher fares.

"Ang 10 sea the fixed deadline for all public utility vehicles to secure to increase their fares to pay for the increase in fare and for the last season," Bustena said.

A two-week allowance had been given to those who beat the deadline Monday, she added.

The LTFRB had already extended the deadline several times to give a chance to those who had failed to secure their fare increases.

The LTFRB urged commuters to report violations to telephone numbers 426-0245 or 426-0243.

Gate issue message via mail box

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE PARAÑAQUE City government has sent letters to the more than 10,000 residents of BF Homes to explain the "real story" behind the BF gates controversy.

Marcos Blumea in Bel-Air said in his letter that residents and business operators in the subdivision alleged the United BF Homeowners Association Inc. (UBHAI) collected excessive fees and charges from them.

The association reportedly also got their residents P1,500 for gate stickers, and P600-P1,000 for residents' handouts also claimed they were charged P30-P100 for food or barangay deliveries, Blumea said.

The city's spokesperson, told the residents yesterday Security guards were also abusive and corrective residents reported.

The mayor said the opening of the gates gates was done in order "your families' and homes' safety and protection while shielding you from those undesirable forces of harassment and intimidation."

The Parañaque City Council passed City Ordinance No. 97-08 and 00-15 that reclassified both Aguirre and El Grande Avenues as commercial zones for public use and ordered on Jan. 16-31 for the opening to the public of subdivision roads linked to major thoroughfares.

The UBHAI closed Elizalde Avenue which connects the two boat ramps, in "apparent retaliation."

But UBHAI president Celso Reyes said the association barred motorists from using Elizalde Avenue for security reasons, as the road has been widened, but said the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board allowed them to fix it so as the money was used for maintenance purposes.

WITH rising oil prices, I have children who ride a cold and trolley, a cheaper alternative to get to school for many in Manila.

'ISM bidders won't want shut down'

By Jerome Aning

STUDENTS of International School Manila and their parents need not fear that the school would close down even if the property is auctioned off on Sept. 1, 15 bankruptcy of Cadre and Education official said yesterday.

"Whoever wins the bid would surely want to keep operating ISM as a school if they want it to earn," DOLE Industrial Capital Enterprise director Rizaldo Martinez told reporters.

The Foreign Chambers of the Philippines earlier expressed apprehension that children of international businessmen and foreign diplomats studying at the school face displacement once the school is sold.

Martinez said there is no reason for parents to be concerned to invest in buying the 7.5 hectare school in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City. He estimated that the value of the property could reach as much as P2.67 million. The DOLE decided to sell the school and foreign DBS bank accounts after its management was unable to pay its former and current faculty members some $6.3 million in back wages, as ordered by the Supreme Court. "The proceeds of the auction would be used to compensate the teachers. If it's not enough, we would look for other means to pay them," he clarified.

The chapter concerned is headed by retired jurist and claims the back pay and bank benefits for the period between 1995 and 2000 by a group of 167 Filipino members of the ISM teachers' union. The teachers had asked the DOLE to cancel them on average of $42,000 each.

Reginald Chung, ISM union president had earlier said that it would not have been hard for the school to pay the teachers the money since ISM enjoyed an average of $1 million a year from the tuition of about 1,700 students who had paid between $3,000 to $14,000 per school each. "What's important is ISM retains the Supreme Court decision and upheld the law," Chung added. With Bryan G. Quinnundo

4 cops linked to Pasig holdup

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FOUR policemen from the Eastern Police District are being linked to a bloody highway robbery in Pasig City last week.

Candy Aurora was preparing to deposit the proceeds of her store in a bank when she was shot by a security guard from whom were also wounded when the robbers fired at them.

PO2 Joel Tapia, who was presented in Camp Crame yesterday, was identified by witnesses through a police gallery. He has denied the allegation. Three other policemen previously assigned to the Pasig City police have also been invited by investigators to shed light on the case.

METROBRIEFS

Bike racks pushed

Mandaluyong's new boss

Water cutoff in Parañaque, Pasay

Justice delayed for disabled man

ON TARGET
Ricardo Tulfo

THAT lunch in my classroom at Judge Ma. Belen F. Ylaya of the Regional Trial Court of Malolos, Bulacan, is an understatement.

I told all the judge is very grateful that she was gullible and wasn't using her head by glossing over the fact that she's using the case to drag me for this last few years.

I hope when that was so easy to treat a lady, but it was the way to get her into realizing her chosen strategy.

For me, Judge Ylaya has been trying a case using third opinion Republic 7610" Quezada. Sir, a quadriplegic for more than two years now.

A quadriplegic is a person whose four limbs (hands and feet) are completely paralyzed. In short, practically unspeakable.

Quezada was charged with rape by his neighbor's household.

She claims that Arli was able to have himself on her by poking a gun at her.

My staff at "Sumbong sa Isang Tulfo" television program asked Arli at the hospital where Lt. Jaime Malolos but you. They let Arli hold a spoon. He couldn't hold the spoon for even two seconds.

Now, if Arli couldn't hold a spoon how could he have picked a gun at his alleged victim?

Arli said go to the toilet unassisted. The process from to every turn down weight (he weighs 140 lbs.) and place him on the seat. Then, he maintains have to clean his genitals by himself.

Because the jail is to every crooked now, Arli has to wear long for other ambulatory inmates to use the toilet first. Most of time he is unable to hold his urine.

Now, one doesn't have to be a rocket scientist to know that in Arli's condition, it's impossible for him to commit rape.

Why is it that the good lady judge takes her own sweet time in rendering a decision on an impossible crime?

It's a big wonder why Bulacan Assistant Prosecutor Ben Gatmaitan, who clinched a prosecutor's investigation, lied to Manila courts court.

Obviously, she's another case, given an ACP's condition.

Should Judge Ylaya hold our in contempt and order me jailed because of my statement of fact, I would gladly join Arli in his cell at the Bulacan Provincial Jail.

* * *

I received an emailed email on Fort Governor Mike Arroyo—he's gone on a sellcrude as the US former Secretary Mel. Just his sister Clarissa "Baby" Santos has now learned her rights on Mike Arroyo's every Senate session.

Senator is chair of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. Pagcor.

Solomon said that when she was still with the boss of President Macapagal-Arroyo, she will her boss to remove Gonzales. Ms. Arroyo reportedly replied: "I need him to survive. He takes care of the media and the bishops."

If Solomon is to be believed, then former Senator has done a very public service job for the President, given the adverse publicity she's getting and the public showing down she's receiving from the bishops.

The truth is Solomon Santos Gonzales and Pagcor former also allegedly couldn't get hold of the government printing agency when she was still DOST secretary.

She was not satisfied even after she was given the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes at her disposal.

Solomon reportedly wanted the Pagcor placed under the DOST.

Pagcor under Gonzales has earned more in four years than the previous eight in 14 years.

This guy has incurred the ire of many government officials because he deprived them of privileges they enjoyed in the previous administrations.

INQUIRER Platinum Code

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 20 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

What do you call an introduction of a working man?

Print the answer in the spaces in the highlighted letters above. Highlighted letters may be used more than once. Next week's quiz: Answers to this week's quiz will be published in the Inquirer and get a chance to win in the drawing of prizes.

To join, simply send PDI name in all capitals answer name and complete address to 2828. Or, text PDI ANSWER name (example: PDI ANSWER JUAN DELA CRUZ) and corresponding answers. The registered subscriber simply sends PDI name in all capitals answer in 2828. Each entry costs P5.00. Each participant is allowed a maximum of 5 entries per day.

Winners of today:
Name, Address, Prize
Name, Address, Prize
Name, Address, Prize

Terms and conditions: Open to all Philippine residents except employees of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and their immediate relatives. Only one prize per person per week. Winners will be announced in the Inquirer. Prizes are non-transferable and non-convertible to cash. Decision of the judges is final. Only valid entries will be considered. Incomplete entries will be disqualified. Winners will be notified by text. Prizes will be delivered to the winners' addresses. Winners will be responsible for all taxes due on their prizes. Only one entry per person per week. Only valid entries will be considered. Incomplete entries will be disqualified. Winners will be notified by text. Prizes will be delivered to the winners' addresses. Winners will be responsible for all taxes due on their prizes.

INQUIRER

'Way Kurat' sweeps up House mess

SOMEPLACE far, far away from the official bride of "House justice."

Compostela Valley Rep. Manuel "Way Kurat" Zamora enthusiastically played parties to the middle of a hastily-filled hearing of the House committee on justice on the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Scene-stealers

Several minutes into the hearing, members of Akbayan partylist group and the militant group Bayan Muna clapped and jeered as Arroyo slipped and flinging a shoal of leaflets from the VIP section of the gallery.

As security officers dragged the Kabataan "scene-stealers" out of the public relations chief in a tshirt T-shirt, denim jeans and rubber sandals, emerged out of nowhere, carrying a broomstick and a black garbage bag.

And without much ado, he picked up the leaflets strewn on the floor and stuffed them into the bag. And after he was done, he casually walked to a seat, seemingly unmindful of the observers in rapt hearing.

"Sir, where's your dustpan?" a security officer asked him in jest.

The night of a Lakas congressman lugging a garbage bag and shooing, which on the floor elected statesmen of laughter from the gallery, as well as exhilarating remarks.

'Overacting'

"That's already GA [conversing]," a woman muttered, shaking her head on seeing the congressman.

But he was unfazed. "It's more depending to throw garbage on the floor," retorted Zamora, who also made a scene during the July 20 State of the Nation of the President when he brought parts of coleoptera seedlings into the session hall and placed them on the tables of colleagues to counter the pork scam denominated by the presidential backer congressman.

DIRTY LITTLE SECRET HUNTS: Rep. Manuel "Way Kurat" Zamora, who looks off to the chandelier of the House after his colleagues cast or papers all over the floor in disgust over the conduct of the justice committee hearing in the central gallery of the Batasan. CONRADO

Punch in the head

Elsewhere in the session hall, things were not interesting.

After being dragged out of the gallery, Fernando Guevarra of Alegria threw a punch at Aron Benjamin, a member of the legislative security bureau, hitting him hard in the head, witnesses said.

Guevarra was pacified by other security officers. Benjamin was likely not to press charges against him, according to Rep. Edcel Lagman of Albay and Kiko Pangilinan of Liberal Party.

Rodrigo Guevarra, Rusty Debuque of Isabela and another colleague from Bicol region, were stopped into applause and cheers of "Impeach Ulitin" after Mindanao Rep. Edmund Reyes asked during the hearing if anyone like was signing the complaint, and nobody answered.

2 envelopes

In a manifestation, Reyes said he had with him two envelopes one containing the names of 23 congressmen who he said have committed to endorse the complaint once the required 79 signatures had been gathered, and another containing blank endorsements.

"Is there no one else? Is there no one else to sign for truth?" Reyes asked. Ian got no reply from his colleagues.

There was claim amid The hearing on as the House floodlit at Alde Villanueva pressed one "prosecution" and Rep. Joseph Santiago who enabled the justice committee hearing.

Caloocan bishop admits getting funds from Pagcor

Turn page A2

"Yes, sometimes we receive financial help from Pagcor but I still go to the poor through the Social Action Center (SAC) of the Caloocan Diocese," Bishop Deogracias Iniguez told the Inquirer yesterday.

"Nothing goes to our pockets," Iniguez said, stressing that he was speaking only for his diocese.

Iniguez's candor seemed to contradict the position of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) against the Church receiving gambling money for its projects.

But Iniguez, a known critic of the Arroyo administration, described Zenaida as "my friend." He was referring to Pagcor head Efraim Genuino.

"If they have problems, they call us," he said. "If we need their help, we go to them."

Iniguez said his diocese had come up with project proposals and presented them to Pagcor for funding. In some cases, he said the gambling agency would come up with the plans and submit it to his office.

The prelate from Caloocan denounced Tuesday's suggestion by former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman that Church officials were wrongfully receiving Pagcor funds.

Soliman said that in the wake of an illegal gambling controversy that had implicated First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in payoffs and forced him to go on voluntary exile, Cabinet secretaries had suggested that the President fire Genuino, who is perceived to be close to her husband.

Soliman said that during a meeting in June when the sacking of Genuino was brought up, Mr. Arroyo reportedly snapped and said she would not get rid of Genuino. "He takes care of the monks and the bishops," Soliman quoted Ms. Arroyo as saying.

Pagcor has denied any derogatory talk in reference to and its funds were monitored by the Commission on Audit. Palace officials said the meeting in which Mr. Arroyo reportedly made the remark never took place.

Soliman, six other Cabinet secretaries and three senior Palace aides quit en bloc but it was called on Ms. Arroyo to resign following allegations of fraud in last year's election and charges her family received illegal gambling payoffs.

Culture of gambling

"The CBCP does not encourage this manner of helping the poor. It could easily be considered in ignoring and promoting the culture of gambling and thereby considered the faithful," it said in a pastoral statement in January 2006.

Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, outgoing CBCP president, yesterday reiterated the position of the bishops' conference. He refused to comment further, saying "there is a need to determine the truth of these statements."

As a "personal position," he favors Pascual, head of all IADAs under the Archdiocese of Manila, said the Church "does not accept money from gambling."

In cases where other prelates might have accepted donations indirectly from gambling operations, Pascual said he was certain that the money had gone to Church-sponsored projects.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales is passionately opposed to receiving donations coming from any form of gambling, even illegal.

Batika ng Barangay

One program handed by Bagcor is "Batika ng Barangay," or village pharmacy which gives Caloocan residents access to low-cost medicines, Pagcor said.

He also said he did not mind accepting Pagcor money for projects like feeding for squatters and rolling stores offering cheap basic commodities.

Msgr. Hernando Coronel, CBCP secretary general, said Soliman had apparently made the revelation in the "political context."

He said individual bishops would have to "justify morally" to acceptance of gambling donations even on "life and death" situations.

For instance, a patient is dreamed of money for operation could seek the Church's help and in the process receive a hefty donation sourced from gambling, he said.

"The question is: Will the Church accept the money and help the patient live?" he said. "If a priest accepts it, he will be answerable to his conscience."

Colder 'ber months' . . .

Turn page A2

centers, at least 10 typhoons are expected to enter the country in the cold "ber months" start, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) announced yesterday.

Three storms would hit the Philippines in September, worst in three in October, two in November and at least one in December, Pagasa weather forecaster chief Nestor Pajobon said.

"Iyang is the month typhoon so far. The Philippines usually has an average of 19 typhoons a year, so 10 more are expected in the cold months," Pajobon said in a phone interview.

Pagasa has hoisted storm Signal No. 2 over the Batanes and Calayan groups of islands, and Signal No. 1 over Agusitan, Burgos, Basco and Sabtang, Babuyan Claro of Iyang. The typhoon is slowly moving out of the Philippine area of responsibility.

Storm Mabi approaching

Even while Iyang is locally out of the country, Pagasa monitored another storm, with international name Mabi, moving toward Batanes. Mabi is expected to be in the Philippines by Friday night, according to Pajobon.

Sydulcino said the country was lucky because Iyang did not hit as badly as it would for Typhoon "Nitang in August," or village pharmacy which gives Caloocan residents access to low-cost medicines, Pagasa said.

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Some areas

The weather forecaster said it was safe to expect that the same areas ravaged by successive typhoons in November last year, such as Quezon, Aurora and Bicol Region, would be hit by typhoons.

"The normal track of tropical cyclones in the last quarter of the year is from northeastern to the Luzon area, particularly central and southeastern Luzon," Pajobon said.

He said Pagasa gave climatological data to the National Disaster Coordinating Council to assist in disaster preparedness.

The good news is that the night would be colder than those in the past few months.

Pajobon said the average temperature in the next three months would be a minimum of between 22 and 24 degrees Celsius and a maximum of 31 to 34 degrees Celsius.

Corrections

IN THE AUG. 28 issue, a photo caption in the Sunday Lifestyle section on Page C4 erroneously identified one of the Colibri Boys and Tea Leaf partners. The person on the right side of the photo is not Waldron—but Melvin—Chu.

IN THE AUG. 30 issue, a table on Page A10 that accompanied the front-page story—"SK Times runs billions of pesos amid racial"—misstated the pump price of gasoline in the Philippines. The correct price is P22.50—not P20.98—per liter.

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa

Ateneo gains basketball finals

SEMIFINAL: Ateneo's defense banged out the finals of the Nike ACT Youth Basketball Philippines Championship over UST Sunday by handing La Salle Green Hills and CSB La Salle Zobel at the San Beda Mendiola courts. The Blue eyes downed LSGH, 81-80, to gain the UAAP finals against Far East, Manila.

Warriors seek semis against Archers today

PCU'S Eddie Espinosa blocks Magnus Kobin Dela Peña in yesterday's game at the Cuneta Astrodome. PHOTO

STANDINGS	W	L
MLQ	0	0
Ateneo	0	0
AE	0	0
La Salle	0	0
AP	0	0
Adamson	0	0
EAC	0	0
PCU	0	0

ADMU 73 (Abueva 20, Ildefonso 13, Ramos 12, Tiongson 10, Cruz 8, Ybañez 6, Ilagan 4, Ayaay 0, Ayaay 0, Ayaay 0, Ayaay 0, Ayaay 0, Ayaay 0)

LA SALLE 70 (Ayaay 0, Ayaay 0, Ayaay 0, Ayaay 0, Ayaay 0, Ayaay 0, Ayaay 0, Ayaay 0, Ayaay 0, Ayaay 0)

THE WARRIORS' hosts can close out contending defenses this season in the UAAP men's basketball tournament.

But this time, it's Manila's University of the East Warriors who have proved to be sweet tasting down Ateneo's La Salle Archers.

The plucky Warriors (9-5) try to live up to their new name when they play for a shot in the Final Four against the defending champion Archers (9-6) at 4 p.m. today in the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Far Eastern U Tamaraws claimed the first semifinal slot last Sunday after repulsing the University of the Philippines Maroons, 73-65, for a commanding 9-2 record. The Ateneo Eagles last in second place at 8-3.

"It's going to be a crucial game for us," said Feliciano. "It's unfortunate that I'm going to play against my brothers. A win will enhance our chances of making it to the top two, and it's the same thing for Ateneo."

Earlier, the UP Maroons will try to revive their Final Four bid against the Adamson Falcons at 1:30 p.m.

The Warriors dipped to solo third after losing to the Ateneo Eagles, 69-75, last Tuesday. "We looked intimidated by Ateneo," noted Dizon.

But the Warriors vow to come out more aggressive against the Archers with rookie sensations Reuben Guevarra and Mark Borboran, 2004 MVP Mark Isip, Manny Arellano and playmaker Jonn Sequerah.

The Archers' offense will again be anchored on team captain Joseph Yeo, Jun Cabreira and JV Casio.

The undersized Archers strengthened their hold of fourth spot last Sunday after posting a 70-64 triumph over the National University Bulldogs. Yeo and Casio combined for 28 points.

In their first encounter, the Warriors narrowly edged the Archers, 83-86, with Arellano leading the game-clinching triple.

The Warriors meanwhile, have been sinking further down the standings. And veterans Mike Torres and Bonbon David have to get their act together to keep UP's semifinal bid current. Jaymaica B. Papa

Fiba nixes PBF, sticks with BAP

By Mesang Castillo

TYCOONS.

The international basketball federation (Fiba) in Europe yanked the Philippine Olympic Committee's request for recognition of the Philippine Basketball Federation, branding it an "impossible" and calling the organizers of the basketball association of the Philippines as "political."

At lengthy letter dated Aug. 30 from Fiba organ, Patrick Baumann berated the POC and its leadership even as the world governing body for basketball affirmed its recognition of the POC-accredited BAP while calling for unity of all basketball stakeholders in the country.

"In Fiba's mind, unity is not controversial and guaranteed by all stakeholders [of basketball in the Philippines] to Fiba, Fiba will continue recognizing the BAP as its regularly affiliated member," wrote Baumann in a letter addressed to POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and secretary general Steve Hontiveros.

Fiba's opinion is clear: it is inappropriate to use basketball in a sport political game [between opposing sides," Baumann continued. "In a consequence, Fiba cannot accept the POC's decision to exercise one group's favor if another one."

Baumann also said that the POC should have given new Bal president Jun Lim enough time to affect the agreements of the sage body with the POC.

The BAP was first suspended by the POC for "swinging" in four gentlemen's agreements reached during two cage summits in April. This is three National Sports Associations than voted

RP five nowhere to go

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association backed national team may have to be disbanded because it has nowhere to go.

Lito Alvarez, the Asia Express representative to the PBA board, who is also the Basketball Association of the Philippines' Deputy Secretary General, yesterday floated the idea of breaking up the team because of the continued loss on the country's commitment requirement. "It appears that there's no more use for PBA's multi-million budget for the [RP team] program as this time," said Alvarez. "During semi-semi's PBA Board meeting, I intend to seek clarification on the direction of the team being supported by PBA. I am even thinking of asking for the disbandment of the RP training pool, until such time that the Fiba suspension in the Philippines has been lifted."

Baculi-less Dolphins rip Cardinals

By Jeannie W. Papa

BALUTAS behind their beleaguered coach, the Philippine Christian U Dolphins came out firing for a 66-57 triumph over the Manila Cardinals that gave them the remaining name to keep semifinal berths in the NCAA basketball tournament yesterday at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Robert Jaazi spearheaded the Dolphins' triumphant scoring surge in the second half to clinch with a game-high 22 points.

"Everything the players did was for coach Jessel," said assistant coach Joel Bulalo, who took over from head tactician Jessel Baculi. "We played better as a group and no single scorer was responsible for running both our offense and defensive game."

Baculi served a one-game suspension for finding a fan by the Dolphins. Last year, the Dolphins claimed Game 1 of the Finals series despite the suspension of Ace Tolentino.

The Letran Knights had already claimed the first semifinal berth last week, but still pounced on the Stags, 96-86, earlier in the first game.

The Knights (12-3) reached the Stags' bid for a twice-to-beat edge, jumping to an 11-2 start and outshooting their foes in their respective coach Louie Alas' challenge to become the best from their last two semifinals.

"I told the players that as champion team [some back-to-back," said Alas.

The Cardinals snapped the Knights' phenomenal 11 game winning run with a 71-66 checkin last Wednesday.

The third running Cardinals (8-8) and the Stags (7-4) vie[d] with the final Four postings in their game tomorrow, a Stags victory will forge a playoff for the third spot.

In junior play, the Dolphins joined the San Beda Cubs on top [10-2] after blasting the Squires, 80-60. The Squires remained in contention for the twice-to-beat edge at 9-3.

87 Gold Medals 72nd SEA Games

Chinese bets to play here

By Mesang B. Castillo

PHILSA source that direct every national athlete playing in the coming Southeast Asian Games would want to go abroad and train, members of the Philippine elite boxing team will be applying a different approach.

Instead of flying out, the national plug pong players have requested their association to bring China's national players here to play in a series of tuneup matches to hone their skills for the Games set Nov.27 to Dec. 5.

Steven Antonio[illegible] Edwin Ilhan[illegible] and Gerdine Binahon[illegible] the men's and women's team to ping pong dubbed a total of nine gold medals, scanning the mixed and team events.

* * *

JUDO brought home a gold, a silver and three bronze medals to become the most decorated Southeast Asian nations in the Vietnam-Indonesia-Thailand-dominated judo.

Pastil joiner Bonn topped the 73-nations field with 11 gold medals. Fellow Gusts, who won the only gold for the Philippines in Malaysia in the under-45 kg category, leads a 16-strong Philippine pool that will train in Japan. The team leaves on Sept. 9.

Panabo, Cotabato up in Mindanao Boxing

By Recah Trinidad

MAGPET, Cotabato—Panabo City of Davao del Norte fielded a featured, well-boxed team and yesterday cleaned to dominate the 1st Mindanao Interregional amateur Boxing Championship at the Magpet Gymnasium.

The team of Congressman Tonyboy Hernando sent a total of eight boxers into the ten-category semifinals (South and Inning Davao—and was being challenged by the finals at the close of action yesterday.

The Cotabato Province team of Gov Manny Pinol has a total of six semifinalists.

The tournament, which serves both as a celebration of youth and a talent search, continues to draw big crowds and had to be extended another day due to the big number of participants.

The original 10 teams overflowed. Another limited total 143 boxers who had to compete in two separate rings.

"This is the start of something great, all the way from the grassroots," said Gov Pinol, whose brother Abigail Mayo Elliot Pinol is the tournament host.

Gov Pinol said they will pick the five best athletes who will send for training by Cuban coach Bonnette Espinosa. These select fighters will be competing in international tournaments with the aim of making it to the Philippine team.

In regards rewards, was Cotabato Ambassador Jorge Hey Antonio, the guest of honor who personally picked Espinosa to host the skills of Filipino fighters upon the request of the League of Provinces of the Philippines.

Espinosa won for Cuba in their Olympic boxing gold medal in Munich in 1972 and went on to help win for his country a total of 27 Olympic and World gold medals.

Other teams in the tournament which opened on Aug. 27 come from Olympic City, Bukid, Zamboanga Del Norte, Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon Sarangani, Davao City, University of Mindanao, Agusan del Campostela Valley, Digos City, Davao Occ. Sarangani, Davao Occ. Sarangani, Davao Occ. Sarangani

GMA to make history at UN

WHILE her hold to power gets shaky at home, President Macapagal will make history in the United Nations when she attends the plenary meeting of the 189 General Assembly (GA) next week.

She will become the first Philippine chief executive, the first Asian leader, and the first female head of state to preside over a UN Security Council session, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

This unprecedented opportunity comes with the country's assumption of the council presidency for one month's starting Sept. 1, according to Ambassador Lauro Baja Jr., the country's permanent representative to the UN.

The Philippines is taking over the body's presidency from Japan, even as its work for the entire month of September, and finally vacate its membership next on June 31.

Baja said the country is "fortunate" to be presiding over the council in the "busiest and most important period in the UN's work."

"The Philippines assumes the presidency at a crucial time when the the 191-member countries are discussing reforms and watch more than 170 heads of states and governments, including President Arroyo, confirming their attendance at the high-level plenary meetings of the General Assembly," he said.

Leaving for New York on Sept. 12, Mr. Arroyo will attend the General Assembly and also preside over a Security Council session on Sept. 14 marking since 1992—as a highlight of the latest Philippine membership in the council, Baja added.

The Philippines was elected in 2003 to its seat of the nonpermanent members of the 15-nation council for the term 2004-2005. This is the fourth time the country was elected members of the council. It served earlier once in 1957-58, 1963-64 and 1980-81.

Palace suspends SEC commissioner

By Clarissa C. Arwas
and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

MALACAÑANG has suspended Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) commissioner Jesus Martinez for failure to settle debts which he incurred before joining the government.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday confirmed that his office issued a preventive order last Friday against Martinez for a case filed against him.

"While there is a finding for him to be suspended, it's not yet mandatory because you always require due process to file a motion for reconsideration," Ermita told reporters.

Malacañang gave Martinez 10 days upon receipt to appeal the suspension order.

Ermita said Martinez could settle within the period his case where a court had ruled he owes pay the money he owed to foreigners, he said.

"The order is not executory until we shall have received word that there was final settlement in some."

But both Martinez and SEC chair Mr. Ruiz said yesterday they have not received the suspension order.

In an order dated Aug. 17, a copy of which was sent to the INQUIRER, Manuel Gaite, deputy executive secretary for legal affairs in the Office of the President, who signed the order, said Martinez was found guilty of dishonesty and neglect in connection with the government.

As penalty, Martinez will be suspended for one year effective immediately.

The order stated that refusal to pay the suspension is a "contributing act" that would merit disciplinary actions even if the indebtedness, confirmed by a court of law, occurred before Martinez joined government.

Rehearing and public officials should observe the code of conduct and ethical standards "at all times."

As of press time, Martinez had become by has not been served his order.

Martinez's predecessor resigned from a complaint filed in June 2004 by ExCon chairman of Comelec Lobbyists for his alleged refusal to pay debts owed the latter.

Martinez was appointed to a seven-year term at the SEC on Mar. 14, 2002.

Before joining the SEC, Martinez had previously organized and advised the Commission on Audit on the audit of foreign corporations. As International Associate Member of the American Bar Association, he had established contacts with a global network of corporate practitioners and business groups.

Martinez is concurrently the oversight official for the investment and securities department of the SEC in the unit that monitors the pre-need industry.

Lizmor's complaint against Martinez was endorsed to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission on June 20, 2004. But, PAGC recommended its dismissal due to the limited lack of facts over the case since it happened before Martinez entered government service.

The Office of the President decided to resolve the case since it has jurisdiction over the administrative complaint against Martinez since it refers to Presidential appointee.

It said Martinez was capable of paying the debt but failed to do so until now. He was also directed to pay the complainant as soon as possible.

Asian crusaders honored in Magsaysay Awards rites

By Veh Carreon

ONE FIGHTS cancer in India. Another one fights AIDS in Thailand. One helps his Lowest people to be future leaders, while another helps the weak and incarcerated still aspire a South Korean city.

One has fought corruption through a networking group in Indonesia. The other weighs a war against "acid throwing" drugs through a newspaper in Bangladesh.

Bound by causes that are both diverse and connected, for multithousand yet universal achievements, the six Ramon Magsaysay awardees for 2005 basically answered how to maintain normalcy in human rise in the Colonial Greeks of the Philippines.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide served as the guest of honor at the 4 p.m. ceremony of what is considered the Asian version part of the Nobel Prize, held annually in Manila to honor Filipino president who died in a plane crash in 1957.

The awardees were: Aw Ung, physician, who won a seat in the Thai Senate on the vote of 4,865 millions, their families and advocacy groups, and has since devoted his political life to securing those simple government attention we use to terms of medical treatment but human respect;

Jonathyn Symphorie, the 35-colonel agriculturist and advocates who in 1996 established a south formation and livelihood center in Christmas Land may be "rich poor," he said, but he wealth lies in its rich tradition and a "young population still unspoiled by mindless consumerism and commercialization."

South Korea's Hyo-soo Park was inspired to engage in social work after losing her teenage sister expelled from school and becoming "faithfully adult." Some 30 years later, she is now the most recognized role leader of her home province. She received the award "for initiatives that benefit not only the youth, but also the disabled, mentally handicapped, the poor, and the elderly."

Yayasan Mendaki is a foundation established by the Indonesian Corruption Watch, dubbed as "a cleaning house for cohesionism, corruption, collusion, and nepotism." The group solicits input from the public, investigates them, exposes them to the media and compel authorities to act. Under his watch, the KW has kept watch of 4.02 guilt cases involving a total of P300 million in government funds.

Newspaper publisher Iftekar Enayetuun is also a hard-hitting critic of corruption and violence. He says that's to earn phenomenon in Bangladesh has been added to his crusade: tarnish with throw acid on women who reject marriage proposals, could of you dowries, or refuse to have sex. He said this disturbs, still unexplained crimes more began in the 1980s—and authorities have acted to address it thanks to the extensive coverage given by his widely-circulated paper Prothom Alo (First Light).

While the Model Thais took to celebrate specific achievements in the act, cancer or humanities, the Singapore Awards awarded a collective body of work that benefited not only the youth, but also the disabled, mentally handicapped, the poor, and the elderly.

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SC may issue VAT verdict today

CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide Jr. yesterday said the Supreme Court will try to resolve today whether the "complex, controversial issue" that is the value-added tax law.

In an interview yesterday, Davide said the court will first discuss at 2:30 p.m. its two petitions to declare the amended VAT Law unconstitutional.

"Tomorrow afternoon, we will be able to finish the 'ponencia' and probably take to the afternoon—meaning before 6 p.m.—we can probably release it to the media," he said.

He said the justices want to "promulgate a decision ... that had been properly and meticulously deliberated upon."

He admitted that the deliberations have been "very intense ... because of the constitutional issues involved," coupled with matters pertaining to "tax legislation."

"We really have to spend time deliberating" on it, he said of the case that has dragged on for two months now.

The government claims that if it was losing P130 million a day since the implementation of VAT on expanded last July 1. Armando A. Doronila

SAVE THE REPUBLIC, FOLLOW THE RULE OF LAW

CAVITE MAYORS DECLARE SUPPORT TO PGMA

In the light of the current political crisis faced by the nation, the Mayors of the Province of Cavite held an emergency meeting last July 12, 2005 at the Josephine's Restaurant in Kawit, Cavite.

After presenting and discussing their individual positions on the issues, twenty one (21) Local Chief Executives unanimously signed and issued a Joint Declaration of Support, to wit:

- THAT ALL ACTIONS EMANATING FROM THE MAYORS WILL BE IN ADHERENCE TO THE CONSTITUTION
- THAT ALL ACTIONS WILL BE TO SAVE THE REPUBLIC AND THE PRESIDENCY
- THAT THE MAYORS WOULD SUPPORT ALL MOVES ON THE ISSUE FACING THE PRESIDENCY AS LONG AS THESE CONFORM TO THE RULE OF LAW.

As a sign of solidarity, the Cavite Mayors trooped to Malacañang last July 14, 2005 to present the said Joint Declaration of Support to President GMA. The Mayors were joined by Vice Governor Jonrie Remulla and the Vice Mayors of the different municipalities and cities of Cavite who similarly issued a Manifesto of Support to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Shown in the attached photo sitting beside President Arroyo are Bacoor Mayor Jessie B. Castillo and Tagaytay Mayor Abraham Tolentino flanked by Vice Governor Jonrie Remulla and other Mayors and Vice Mayors of Cavite.

A JOINT DECLARATION OF SUPPORT BY THE MAYORS OF THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE

In the light of the current crisis faced by the nation, the Mayors of the Province of Cavite held an emergency meeting. Each Local Chief Executive presented and discussed their individual positions to come up with a united stand on the issue.

Unanimously, twenty one (21) Mayors of Cavite reached a firm stand that the group would continue to follow the **RULE OF LAW** in all their actions, to wit:

- **THAT ALL ACTIONS EMANATING FROM THESE MAYORS WILL BE IN ADHERENCE TO THE CONSTITUTION**
- **THAT ALL ACTIONS WILL BE TO SAVE THE REPUBLIC AND THE PRESIDENCY**
- **THAT THE MAYORS WOULD SUPPORT ALL MOVES ON THE ISSUE FACING THE PRESIDENCY AS LONG AS THEY CONFORM TO THE RULE OF LAW**

As a sign of solidarity and support to the Presidency, the Mayors of Cavite hereby affix their signatures to this Joint Declaration of Support this 12th day of July 2005 at the Josephine's Restaurant in Kawit, Cavite.

JESSIE A. CASTILLO
Bacoor

FILOTEO C. MALIGAYA
Magallanes

BERNARDO S. PAREDES
Cavite City

CESAR A. CANDAMAN
Mangunlad

[illegible]
Imus

MANUEL ROMERA
Mendez

CONRADO LINDO
Tanza

WALTER ECHEVARRIA
General Mariano Alvarez

FEDERICO PORLETE
Kawit

DANILO C. BENCITO
General Aguinaldo

ARLYNN TORRES
Noveleta

ROLLY PINANO
Alfonso

EMILIA C. MALARENO
Naic

BIMBO T. SAQUILAYAN
Imus

LUIS A. FERRER IV
General Trias

[illegible]
Trece Martires City

SHERWIN TOLENTINO
Tagaytay City

DAHLIA LOYOLA
Carmona

RENATO ABUTAN
Rosario

[illegible]
Silang

RAYMUNDO DEL ROSARIO
Tanza

Katrina fury sends oil prices surging back past $70

Front page A1

recent six weeks—and hopes that production shortfalls left by Katrina will be remedied ahead of the Northern Hemisphere winter.

The US Minerals Management Service said Tuesday that 95 percent of the Gulf of Mexico oil output was out of service, with more than 4.6 million barrels of production lost since Friday.

Light, sweet crude for October delivery rose as high as US$70.85 a barrel on the Nymex by midday in Europe before slipping back to US$70.35, up 54 cents. Futures had risen to an intraday record of US$70.85 on Tuesday before settling at US$69.81, a record close since trading began on the Nymex in 1983.

October Brent crude was up 55 cents to US$68.82 a barrel on London's International Petroleum Exchange.

60 percent higher

Oil prices are now more than 60 percent higher than a year ago, although still below the inflation-adjusted high of about US$90 a barrel that was set in 1980.

Still, with gasoline supplies already tight before the storm hit, analysts expected that additional troubles caused by refinery shutdowns would be of most concern to US drivers already hard-hit by high prices.

"Crude is a side-show here," said Olaf Mortensen, head of energy research at Barclays Capital in London. "We were expecting gasoline woes before the storm hit because the situation was already very very tight—refineries were having trouble increasing production and inventories were (already) at a 20-month low—and that was last week."

Eight refineries were shut down due to Katrina—half of them producing gasoline. Motiva's 994,000-barrel-a-day Port Arthur refinery in Texas—the nation's largest—additionally reported at least three other flooded and power failure refineries are for an unknown length of time.

30-million-barrel loss

Howard said the damage translated into an estimated 30-million-barrel loss in gasoline output—a problem that cannot be solved by increasing crude production or siphoning off oil from the US strategic oil reserve, two possible solutions being offered.

"What's Opec supposed to do here?" he asked, of recent pledges by key members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to up the amount of oil being pumped.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is America's emergency supply of 700 million barrels of crude oil stockpiled in caverns in Texas and Louisiana.

US President George W. Bush is expected to authorize the release of just enough oil from the reserve to help make up for production losses directly related to the powerful storm, with a stipulation that oil companies replace the oil later with a larger quantity.

Even without the damage by Katrina learned is, the US Department of Energy's last week petroleum data snapshot late Wednesday was expected to show another drop in gasoline inventories, primarily from the summer driving season.

Crude and gasoline stocks were likely to rise. But Iran's influence on US stocks will only be realized in next week's report but some analysts already claim to know the score—even if the Bush administration says the nation's crude oil stockpile to help refiners.

No upside

"In the next few months, there's no upside," said economist Minh Trinh of Econoscenario, an economic consulting service. "And this winter, we're going to feel it more noticeably as people pay record gas prices and record home heating bills."

Other commodities also were affected by Katrina's fury.

Royal Dutch Shell Plc's Gasunie Mijnbiedrijf Nederland appeared to be potentially the largest Katrina casualty, with natural gasoline damaging significant damage to the top of the facility that normally draws out 220,000 barrels of crude and 220 million cubic feet of natural gas a day.

The US Minerals Management Service said 88 percent of natural gas output was shut down, resulting in a loss of 23.4 billion cubic feet of lost production since Friday.

Energy Intelligence/Agence France-Presse/Bloomberg News/AP

3 impeachment . . .

Front page A1

The third so-called Lozano complaint was filed July 25, the morning of the President's State of the Nation Address, and initially endorsed by 42 lawmakers. The 55-page complaint alleged that Mr. Arroyo committed:

- "Culpable violations of the Constitution—by directing and or allowing electoral fraud."
- "Acts of bribery and graft and corruption—by appointing controverted (disbursing) group to the public, assuming "parking" people, and allowing the use of government resources to promote her candidacy in 2004."
- "Betrayal of the public trust—by unjustifiably investigations into offenses allegedly committed by her family by concealing ownership of various properties and businesses, and by infringing the rights of political dynasties, even to the point of providing impunity to their killers. Jaime Aldaroso, PDI Reporter

21st birthday saves day for Fil-Am family

Front page A1

The fight to stay in the United States has been going on for 13 years for the Aguados, but has taken on new importance since Judy Aguado was diagnosed with brain cancer.

13-year struggle

Battles that even the federal government conceded the family's way to the United States for humanitarian reasons.

But the situation wasn't immune and the family was well aware that their days in the United States could be numbered.

"We've turned in the paperwork at the immigration office in Seattle, and last weekend we went over and had our fingerprints taken," Judy Aguado said last week.

The Aguados were not told how long the process would take, but they hope their green cards—valid for 10 years for the Aguados, but has taken on new importance since Judy Aguado was diagnosed with brain cancer.

Tourist visas only

After that, Judy and Tomas Aguado will be eligible to apply for citizenship in three years, according to Stephanie Aguado. She recently started her senior year at Philadelphia State University where she is majoring in zoology.

Once the Aguado couple receive citizenship, they can petition for a visa for daughter Angelyn, a senior in high school. The couple's two sons—a student majoring in chemistry at WSU and a WSU graduate now working as a software engineer—are working through the citizenship process on their own.

The Aguados, who entered the United States on tourist visas in 1992, operated a day cleaning store in Selah and sought to stay.

Tourist visas only

They filed for political asylum in 1993, but were denied and lost a subsequent appeal to the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in 2001.

A US District Court judge granted a 60-day stay of the family's deportation order in 2003, after newspaper stories about Judy Aguado appeared. Her health would not permit her to be deported. The stay was extended several times.

Judy Aguado also said the latest news on her brain cancer look promising enough that she does not need additional treatment now.

AP

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ibarra

650 Iraqi Shiites killed in Baghdad bridge stampede

BAGHDAD—About 650 people were killed in a stampede on a bridge Wednesday when a panic engulfed a massive Shiite religious procession amid rumors that a suicide bomber was about to attack, officials and a survivor said. It was the single biggest loss of life in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion.

Shiites jostled to cross packed spans in their desperation to flee Tigris River, while others were crushed in the crowd. Most of the dead were women and children, Interior Ministry spokesperson Lt. Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman said.

Tensions already had been running high in the government in Baghdad's heavily Shiite Kadhimiyah district because of a mortar attack two hours earlier against the shrine where the main feast is now heading.

The shrine was about two kilometers from the bridge. Shiite processions, which can draw crowds of more than a million, are often targeted by Sunni extremists seeking to trigger sectarian war as worshippers are on ground for months.

One survivor said panic ensued when a rumor spread that a suicide bomber was in the crowd.

Abdul-Rahman said 649 were killed and 514 injured, although other figures from official sources varied as authorities struggled to count the dead scattered in numerous hospitals.

Most of the dead were women and children, Abdul-Rahman said. Survivors were ferried in ambulances and private cars to several hospitals and officials were scrambling to compile an accurate figure.

After the collapse, bare-chested men swam through the muddy river looking for bodies.

"We were on the bridge. It was so crowded. Thousands of people were approaching the," said survivor Fadhel Ali, 28, barefoot and soaking wet after swimming in the river. "We heard that a suicide attacker was among the crowd, fire which was selling ice.

I jumped from the bridge into the river, swam and reached the bank. I saw women, children and old men falling after me into the water."

Health Minister Abdul-Mutalib Mohammed told state-run Iraqiya television that there were "huge crowds on the bridge and the disaster happened when someone shouted that there is a suicide bomber on the bridge."

"This led to a state of panic among the pilgrims until they started to push each other and there was many cases of suffocation," he said.

Scores of bodies covered with white sheets lay on the sidewalk outside one hospital because the morgue was jammed. Many of those were women dressed in black gowns, children and old men. AP

Hurricane death toll surges past 100

NEW ORLEANS—Hellish scenes of death, damage, and chaos wrecked the US Gulf Coast on Wednesday as overwhelmed authorities tried to rescue the living and count the dead amid the destruction left by powerful Hurricane Katrina.

New Orleans was filling with water after an initial attempt to stop a leaking levee failed, while police fought a losing battle to stop widespread looting in the smoldering city.

In Mississippi, officials confirmed that at least 100 people had died in the killer storm and said the death toll was almost certain to go much higher. "We're just estimating, but the number could go double or triple from what we're talking about now," a state defense director told the Associated Press Clarion Ledger.

Michael Brown, spokesperson Vincent Carrel earlier told Reuters of the death toll: "It's going to be in the hundreds."

US Sen. Mary Landrieu told reporters she had heard at least 55 to 100 people were dead in New Orleans, where rescue teams were to start moving people stranded in flooded homes they had to leave before flooding in the high waters.

Louisiana officials said 5,000 people had been rescued, but many more were waiting to be picked up by rescuers in boats who cruised up and down flooded streets or helicopters hovering overhead. "I'm alive. Im alive," shouted one person woman as she was hoisted from a home nearly swallowed by the rising waters.

Governor Haley Barbour on Monday with 221 kph winds, while slamming into the coasts of neighboring Mississippi, Alabama, and western Florida.

A 10-meter storm surge in Mississippi wiped away 90 percent of the buildings along the coast of Gulfport and Gulfport, leaving a scene of destruction that Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour said was "like there's been a nuclear weapon set off."

New Orleans at first appeared to have recovered a gleaming bloom from the storm, but the raging waters of Lake Pontchartrain were broken in the levee system that protects the low-lying city, then slowly filled it up.

Almost four-fifths of the city, which is 80 percent of the city, much of it below sea level, was covered with water that was replaced by more deep.

The US Army Corps of Engineers said local levee workers need, but failed on Tuesday to stop the flow from a 61-meter breach in the levee. The city earlier with 1,360 kg sandbags brought in by helicopter Corps senior project engineer Al Naomi said they would bring in more sandbags on Wednesday and perhaps build a temporary dam around the breach.

But the biggest effort in the fight to save the city may be nature itself, he said.

"The flow has pretty much eased mainly because the lake is dropping in elevation," Naomi told Reuters.

In 36 hours, the lake, which was whipped high by the storm, should return to normal levels and the water now flooding New Orleans would begin to drain, Naomi said.

He said the historic French Quarter, the hallmark of New Orleans and the main draw for its huge tourist industry, should escape with only minor flooding because it sits 1.5 meters above sea level.

The floods knocked out electricity, contaminated the city water supply and cut off most highway routes into New Orleans.

A million people fled before Katrina arrived, but those who stayed were running out of food and water.

Wild scenes of looting erupted around the city as people broke into stores or grab supplies, but also television sets, jewelry, clothes and computers. Reuters

RESIDENTS climb over debris in Biloxi, Mississippi, Aug. 31 after their house was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. —

US air strikes kill 56

BAGHDAD—US air strikes on suspected al-Qaida hideouts in Iraq near the Syrian border killed at least 56 people, an Iraqi security source said. An Iranian stipulated to defeat a dual countryman.

US ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, meanwhile, said that changes to the draft constitution were still possible, raising the hopes of Iraq's disgruntled Sunni Arabs.

The news came as the Iranian, whose nationality is believed to have the backbone of the raging insurgency, were sending alliances to define the charter from Oct. 15 referendum.

At least 56 people were killed in the air strikes carried out by US forces near Qaim close to the Syrian border," a security source said.

The US military said it had no report number of casualties.

"There were a total of three strikes targeting terrorist safe houses ... Also taken and several associates are believed killed," a US military spokesperson in Baghdad said, referring to a reported al-Qaida operative.

Abu Musab was leader of an armed Kurdish town Qaim, 330 km west of Baghdad, he added.

The US military launched similar strikes Friday against another suspected al-Qaida hideout also in the eastern Al-Anbar province of western Iraq.

Around 30 militants associated with al-Qaida lieutenant in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, were in a safe house in the border town of Husaybah, 4 km from the Syrian border, without providing details of casualties. AFP

Killer storm Katrina stops presses, broadcasts

BTRI client officers and persons flooded, severe media outlets in New Orleans were also shutdown as federal and television broadcasters on Tuesday and are up shop on the Web.

The Times-Picayune, whose daily circulation is 270,000, put out only an electronic edition on Tuesday with a one-word headline summing up the impact of Hurricane Katrina: "Unimaginable."

In morning updates on the website said The Times-Picayune was evacuating to building in New Orleans and does staff members were looking for the storm, it began storm about the video in the west. The newspaper's office phones and fax e-mail system were dead.

Only one of the four local television stations, WWL Channel 4, a CBS affiliate, has been able to stay on the air throughout the last few days. Channel 4, owned by the Belo Corp., aired a live and broadcasts at the newspaper's new facility in Gretna, La., and at an sent journalists to the communications center at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, more than 75 miles away.

Two other stations, WWL Channel 26, a WB affiliate, and WGNO Channel 26, an ABC affiliate, went off the air and relied on their websites, which featured weather updates, videos footage, and advice for staying safe after disaster.

"What we're doing as the stations is use the websites of both stations to get news to viewers and neighbors," said Gary Weitman, a spokesperson for Belo Broadcasting, which owns the stations.

WDSU Channel 6, an NBC affiliate, moved its operations to two more stations, one in Jackson, Mississippi, and another in Orlando, Florida. With some interruptions, it put back on the air and presented news and weather programming on its website as well. "The Web played a big role in all of this," said Tom Curaps, a spokesperson for Nexstar Inc., the station's owner. New York Times

Russia, Iran, N. Korea, Syria have bio weapons — US report

WASHINGTON—A state Department report released says countries indictment that Russia, Iran, North Korea and Syria continue to have unsubtle biological weapons programs.

The report said China maintains "some elements" of an offensive biological weapons program. The study said US government experts worldwide on whether Cuba is trying to develop a capability of using the weapons.

All six countries had been linked previously to varying degrees to BW programs.

The study, mandated by Congress and released Tuesday, assesses compliance by foreign countries with arms control, nonproliferation and disarmament agreements. It notes developments over a two-year period, according to December 2004.

The 109-page report assesses the situation in individual countries on all aspects of weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, chemical and biological. It also reviews missile proliferation and the status of compliance with agreements on conventional forces in Europe, among others, including Russia.

The study does not examine nuclear programs in Pakistan, India and Israel because none is a member of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and have not undertaken obligations to comply with the treaty's terms.

While the focus of international concern lately has been on the nuclear ambitions of Iran and North Korea, less attention has been paid to biological weapons.

A senior official who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity said BW proliferation is a strong US concern.

As of December 2005, 151 countries had ratified the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. An additional 16 countries had signed but not yet ratified the convention.

The report the report dealt with seven countries in three categories for which the most extensive cases of actual or potential noncompliance.

It reviewed the situations in Libya and Iraq, noting that the BW programs in both countries had been eliminated by 2003.

The findings in the report on six other countries whose BW programs were reviewed.

China—The United States said: there is judgment that China "maintains some elements of an offensive BW capability" in violation of its commitments under the convention.

Cuba—Same: US government continues to believe that Cuba has in fact a "limited offensive BW research and development effort." Others say it is unclear whether any such effort exists.

Iran—Based on "all available information," Iran has an offensive BW program.

North Korea—US analysts believe that North Korea has a "dedicated, national level effort to develop, up a BW capability." AP

Princess Diana still favorite topic

LONDON—Interest in Princess Diana is still strong eight years after her death in a Paris car crash, with writers and gossip-hunting bundles of cash for those willing to exploit her legacy.

Fuelled by the public's appetite for the "People's Princess," a definitive British police investigation into how she died will soon shed more details on some into the spotlight where it concludes, possibly later this year.

Diana, 36, and her lover Dodi al-Fayed were killed along with their chauffeur when they crashed in a Paris tunnel on Aug. 31, 1997.

Her sudden death triggered a global outpouring of grief and generated an already thriving "Diana industry".

Beautiful, graceful and caring, the young blonde became an icon after she married Britain's heir to the throne Prince Charles in July 1981, and went on to give birth to princes William and Harry.

Her high-profile divorce 11 years later did nothing to deter her popularity, and news and photographs of her glamorous lifestyle and private problems filled newspapers on a daily basis.

When Prince Charles remarried former Camilla Parker-Bowles in April, kings, crowds, key rings and postcards of Diana reminded any of Diana's memorabilia.

"Diana's brand is still the one which sells the best," said a souvenir shop owner in Windsor, west of London, where Charles' second wedding took place.

There is no official figure of how many billions of Diana trinkets have been sold, "but most quite silly have been a success. The princess was even invented from the dead to appear on a paper because to sell. Ed comic strip in Britain.

"Catch-22 in the Wind," a song by Elton John in September 1997 following her death, sold 33.6 million copies to become the biggest-selling hit of all time.

Diana-fatigue in an editorial in the Daily Mirror sobbed on the "grief industry," interest in Diana has also spawned hundreds of "exclusive" biographies by people who claim to have been close to her.

Each new book topped sales the sudden solid mass of money from newspaper-photographs to publish-exclusive.

In November, the Daily Mirror handed Diana's former butler Paul Burrell £300,000 pounds ($535,000) for his exclusive testimony. Eleven month later, Burrell sold the same spilled contents of the book about the princess for an undisclosed sum as part of a carefully orchestrated media campaign to maximize on his self-performed testimony to media digs.

The impact of the dead was enormous. The Mirror sold one million supplementary copies within the space of a week.

Stories from those who were close, or once distant, exposure secrets of Diana from the highest price and people are free to tell them without fear of infringing Britain's outer libel laws because the princess is dead. AFP

A LIFE-SIZE sculpture of the late Princess Diana and Dodi Al Fayed stands at the Bronze age foundry in London, Aug. 24. Sculpted by Bill Mitchell, "Innocent Victims" is a portrayal of the late Princess of Wales does ingredient her lover Dodi Al Fayed. —

Bibat pulls away by 4 shots; Pagunsan misses cut

BAGUIO—Michael Bibat widened his lead to four strokes after another solid round of three-under-par 69 yesterday even as Iloilo Paganensis suffered the agonizing of missing the halfway cut at the Samsung Amateur Tour third leg he was expected to win at The Camp John Hay Golf Club here.

He another runs day which forced co-partners to see the weekend his rule. He 20-year-old Bibat finished three of his four on holes and went on to shoot his second straight sub-par round for a 128 aggregate, seven under par over the rolling course.

That put Bibat four shots up on fellow national pool member Jay Bryan, who finished first of the last seven holes for the day's low round of 64 and a 135 aggregate.

Bryan's winning shot from 30 m to Concession nine had a 4th-37 while Korean Han Chang-Sei (71) and Rullies Bayron (66) were joined by jaegolfers Enrico Isaacs (68) and Cesar Bunyi (70) at 139.

Pagunsan, under pressure after a one-under-par 72, stumbled during the afternoon on the front nine to endure a double-bogey and a bogey for 38.

But his game deteriorated coming home, stumbling with straight bogeys at the 10th, a bogey on the 12th and a double bogey on the 18th for a 73 and a 144 total.

He needed just a par and two bogeys on his final eleven, which is not difficult since two are par-3s and considered birdie holes.

"It was one of those days, I believe. The weather might have caused it but he's not offering any excuses," said organizer Ben Bhat Octaspo of the Professional Sports Management Group.

The event co-organized by Samsung Ortega golf development is also sponsored by Volvo Tokos, KISS, Mikrotek, Computer Sport, Silver, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Bankbit, Rudy Project, C-Lium Filter and Aptem Thai. Media partners are Wow 99.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT 100.5 Action and Killer Bee.

Amy Lapid, Jun Bonnet, Wim Blando and Anthony Fernando, all at 142, made up the last group of qualifiers.

Also, the national finals champion of the Samsung Tour last year, was assessed a two-stroke penalty for failing to follow the Tight Lies Rule during the opening from an embedded lie on the 12th hole.

He and his father later got into a minor dispute with Bibat, whom they accused of changing balls, which the latter quickly denied.

Fiba nixes PBF.

(from page B1)

to expel the Bill from the Olympic movement in June 30.

"The sequence of events, unless determinations that the organization takes a statement to satisfy the requirements of the IOF and the integration of the opposing personalities under the PBFC," Bolentino said in the letter a copy of which was furnished The Bulletin.

"As a consequence of our position and the matter, it is impossible for FIBA to entertain your request for affiliation of the PBFC."

Meanwhile, in a letter from Samsung Ortega's cabinet, PBFC, BAP and PBF leaders who got a windfall from amateur Jio Cayetano, Jaggay Rosada and Lito Lapid, it was learned that the Philippine Basketball Association Games Operating Commissioner (Philsac) would not be able to catch in on the privileges of support it has gotten from lawmakers.

It was during the hearing where Lapid presided amidst copies of Bautista's letter were sent to the media.

The Department of Budget and Management, Cayetano feared, has denied her request for release of funds to the Philsac coming from the Countrywide Development Fund (pork barrel).

"I promised to help and continue to help, but I regret I'm a blank wall until the 1000 disallowing effect—in of our funds to operate," said Cayetano, who had requested the PBF-PBA take control of the PBA at the latter Senator's CDF to the Philsac.

Bautista's letter said in 9 of the 3 months leadership crisis that the BAP had four more ago and urged the PBA to work with the controversial PBF to avoid any situation in the future, that is in the horizon at the moment.

DOUBLE PLAY: Philadelphia Phillies' Jimmy Rollins throws to first to complete a double play after forcing out New York Mets' David Wright (left) at Shea Stadium in the Flushing neighborhood of the Queens borough of New York City. The Mets won, 6-4. AP

NBC selection cops 9th Prince Cup title

HUAD-TAI CITY, Thailand—The National Basketball Conference (NBC)-Nomura's Spring Selection swept the 9th Crown Prince Cup (invitational) title at the expense of Thailand's national team, 72-60, at the Anantakorn indoor stadium here Tuesday.

In front crowd, Mc Domingo powered the Filipinos to their fourth straight victory with 17 points and, in the process, claimed the tournament and its only MVP award.

Domingo, who joined the recent PBA draft but got no takers, was five in blocks (2 per game) and recorded scoring (11-for games, rebounding (8 per game) and assists (3.5 per game).

The Filipinos struggled at the start before the highly partisan crowd and Jeepers Quinn (16 points) and, among heavy-hitting shoot, 18-17, after 10 minutes.

But the Filipinos, sponsored by Nomura's Spring and supported by Mayor Eraldo Dy Domingo, Mayor Mercy Jr., Eddie, Felipito Lanes, Mandaue City Mayor Teddy Oppus and Lapulapu Gov. Toronto "Mogging" Lobias, wasted no to the second ends and outgunned the Thais, 38-22, to avoid any of the hassle, 61-28.

They have looked back after that.

"We made it," said coach M. Bala. "We couldn't ask for more from the boys. They did not lose their composure despite the pressure of the game."

NBC president Ruchlessel "Tex" Padilla praised the boys for "a job well done. We in the NBC are proud of all of you."

NBC secretary general Tito Salinas, who is also the delegation head, said the victory proved that the Filipinos remained to be reckoned with in the Southeast Asian region's basketball scene.

The NBC Rangers had the squad opened its campaign with a 99-79 thrashing over Hong Kong. Then it beat Singapore, 81-66, and South Korea's athletes-Seoulpon, 82-77, in the semis to finish.

Toronto

NBC 81—Domingo 17, Bonnet 12, Valencia 10, Quinn 8, Andoy 8, Mallari 5, Pelaez 3, Lalimarmo 2, Ilao 2, Manapsal 2, Wamar 2.

THAILAND 60—Pattanin 17, Pan 10, Kraikiet 13, Bhumkrakorn 6, Pornvit 6, Wilaikaew 12, Thanad 2.

Quarters: 19-17, 41-28, 54-50, 72-60

Tagaytay rules Merdeka chess

FOREIGNHOUSE Tagaytay City whipped first time hosts, 3.5-0.5, in the eighth and final round to capture the Merdeka Chess Team Championship title Monday in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Tagaytay finished with 23.5 points, 3.5 points clear of Pasig Jaycees' Jose Philippines, the only other Filipino team in the field, and Manila Bangko, which is based, earned the Filipino Fide Masters (FM) Cris Ramos and Jose Mendoza to beat Gerald Dean while Alaska toppled Chinese Ayiku.

"The team to beat Mayor Ronaldo Lobregat (Tagaytay) and Mr. Go Tong Bok for their support," said head coach Bernardo Cervantes. "We could not have been without their help."

"Now again we were able to show that we could excel in the game," said Alvaro, also the country's delegation head.

The Filipino delegation was also supported by the Philippine Chinese Entrepreneurs Office.

Boren clinches Lynx Cup Advance crown

BOREN

PRETTY Sportsmen Pia Boren added the 2006 TBS (Taiwan Beijing School)-Red Lynx Cup Advance Series by sweeping the three races in the Red Lynx division of the Advance to the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

The series is open, owned by Red Group, Philippines, and Red Lynx, Inc. (Indiko, Lynxie, Red Horse, TBS Auto Depot, Sportsmen, Highway Body Kits, Rota Wheels, MM Stamps, 97 Motors, Philippine Sport, 49-9 Mojo, Tropik.com, Brothers Burger and Ultimate Speedzone.

Boren started the first race in fourth place behind polesitter and pre-race favorite John Mauricio, Jr., Carmelo Quesada and Marcelo Gaspar Egged Quesada.

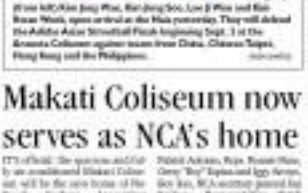
Mauricio was able to hold off the onrushing line drivers while Gaspar bagged crown. Quesada and Boren made relatively slow starts but were able to secure post-Gaspar and caught up with Mauricio before the first corner.

Boren was able to score in ahead of Mauricio and grabbed the lead, which she kept until the finish. Quesada and Mauricio, meanwhile, were left out of reach but were able to continue. At the end of the race, Mauricio, Gaspar, Quesada and Boren finished in fourth, fifth and sixth place, respectively.

In Race Two, Boren shaded from pole but was swamped by Quesada and Gaspar at the first corner. Mauricio, meanwhile, had trouble getting off the line and was forced to settle for fourth. A battle erupted between the two leading drivers as Boren waited patiently behind them.

On Lap Three, Boren saw an opening and overtook Gaspar for second. Two laps later, she used her running to line up Quesada, who took a tight line, and passed him on the rear of Time Gate. Boren then, there, was a duel of sorts between Hunnic and Gaspar, who occupied places and Gaspar wrested third place away from Mauricio near the end of the race. At the checkered flag, it was Boren, Quesada, Gaspar and Mauricio.

Race Three served as a confirmation of Boren's dominance when she shot off into the lead and never looked back. That 4th month of the circumvent and outwore of the season to Mauricio, Quesada and Gaspar, who shuffled the second with their four quarter racing.



KOREAN CAUSE: Members of the crack South Korean squad (from left) Kim Jong Woo, Bae Jung Soo, Lee Ji Woo and Han Beom Wook, open archrival as the Asia yesterday. They will defeat the Adidas Asian Streetball Finals beginning Sept. 1 at the Araneta Coliseum against team from China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong and the Philippines. inquirer.net/jay

Makati Coliseum now serves as NCA's home

(TTS of Hotel. The sports inn and Golf is an accelerated Makati Coliseum will be the new home of the National Collegiate Association (NCA), the biggest and most populous group of colleges.

NCA president Gen. Jes Tuano and sportsmen Rudy Salud, Jacinto Lim and William Co of PTCI Amusement Corp. signed the pact last Monday. Makati Coliseum signed yesterday to hold seven NCA stagings, beginning in Sept. 6 until.

Officials who witnessed the signing were Philippine Sports Commission chairman Ricardo Garcia, Games and Amusements Board chairman Domingo Cayanan, Rudy Salud, Jes Fernando, acting Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Ronnie Nuno, Gerry "Boy" Tapiru and Iggy Arroyo, Bong Ang, Ricardo Sarmiento, Rudy Delos Reyes, Ang Dino and Steve Libranda, Vice Mayor Nemie Macaraeg, Georgie Antonio, Riley Bagaporo, Richard Bates, Vice Governor Jesus Elias Pilapil, Rudy Bonoan, Alex Bautista, Raul Fondevilla, Al Magsaysay, Edgar Sarmiento, Joel Rudy Rogers, Toni Mariñas, Benjie Lim, Jong Calleven, Ram Lopez, Angel Jacinto and Ben Briones.

Salud, a former commissioner of the PBA, was the first president of the NCA when it was formed 20 years ago.

Lawanda keeps javelin crown

ISLAND Divas Lawanda bagged the women's javelin gold medal in Monday as the 10th World Masters Athletics Championships in San Sebastian, Spain. Lawanda, 47, threw the javelin 30.61 meters to edge Canadian Lisa Dalton, 46, for the gold. Dalton's throw in the Masters 45 to 49 division was two years ago in Carolina. Finishing third was Monica Pinedina, on the other hand, clocked 7:41.08 to settle for the silver in the women's 40 to 44 middle-aged. British Geraldine Reagan won the gold in 7:34.13. Philippine Sports Commissioner chairman Ricardo Garcia congratulated the delegation of local.

Eslao guns for 6th straight kart win

ROOKIE sensation Bredo Eslao goes for his sixth straight win in the KT Light division on the Sunday in the 2005 WOKA Shell Sponsorship Series of the Red Zone in Cebu City.

Eslao, a 17-year-old Dutch-educated DLSZ freshman, won an debuted in the previous legs at the Carmona Circuit Philippines, Incorporated. Batangas Racing Circuit, the Asian Zone Karting and Richmond Kingdom to pave the stunningly with 540 points.

With another romp of this Cebu leg, he will virtually have clinch the KT Light crown and the Top Rookie plum in the leg.

"Karting has become my passion and source of inspiration," said Eslao. "Winning this leg will be the culmination of the year-old struggle and hardwork to rise to the kingdom dream of becoming a karting champ."

Eslao took racing seriously at age 14 in 2002 as the brother-in-law whom he beat his fourth, Gerome Bolish, Americo and Indonesia counterparts in most of the time.

He returned to the country last year and decided to take his racing career to a more competitive level by taking karts seriously. Emerging at the La Salle and joining the Shell Karting Series this year.

Eslao is 175 points ahead of Carlos Gerome Dimalay Bondoc who has 65 points.

After this season, Eslao will move up to the senior level. By 2007, he plans to return to Europe to start his big bi-Dream of becoming an F1 champion reality.

ROOKIE: Eslao (left) takes the checkered flag in the KT Light class of the 2005 Shell Sportsman leg Series. He won the race five laps.

WORD FROM SINGAPORE

SEA Games hosting faces logistical nightmare

COZIE Ignacious threw breaking for the Southeast Asian Games in Manila more local headaches as a sophisticated method of a strike.

"I will be home versus spend one free more location... Manila, Subic and weekends cities Bacolod and Cebu, a 35-minute flight from Manila—a logistical and organizational nightmare has ensued.

The organizers are also racing against time to get Philippine capital ready for the biennial affair, which last hosted in 1991.

Singapore's first discussion from the bids told The Straits Times yesterday: "It's a very big challenge, especially for our support staff and media. It's like having it in four different countries."

However, he added that the organizers are trying to cut corners these problems.

For example, instead of having a central Athletes' Village, athletes will stay in hotels near their competition venues. And to facilitate movement, organizers will provide a motorcade for athletes' heading to these venues.

That would come as handy especially in Metro Manila, where a 20-minute trip could turn into a two-hour journey because of traffic jams.

Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) secretary general Steve Hontiveros admitted that they faced a tough challenge from the outset.

He said: "We inherited someone else's proposals—the idea to have it in four main locations."

"This is not the best way for us to host the Games, as the POC changed leadership in January and it's also election year for our country," he added.

Pressure is another hurdle.

Hontiveros Manila's organizers reportedly said earlier this month that the government would not go beyond the P500 million it has pledged for the Games.

A check with the organizers yesterday revealed that they are still about P600 million short of the estimated P1.2-billion budget.

While the Games are also featuring a record 443 events in 43 sports, the lack of money could be a major problem.

However, the organizing committee's chief spokesman, Glenn Soliman, told The Straits Times yesterday, "We are confident of reaching the target before the Games.

"For that, Jose Cojuangco, raised P20 million in just two days by approaching some legislators."

He also revealed that two major venues—Manila's Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and Subic's Filoil Flying V Centre—are being upgraded. A Singapore contractor is giving the former a $400,000 facelift, while facilities at the latter are being renovated by the team of P20-million boxers.

Subic are expected to be ready by October. Security is another big worry.

Yesterday, Philippine authorities placed their capital's security forces on full alert as National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzalez warned of a major attack in Manila before the end of the month.

The comes just a day after a bomb exploded on a ferry, injuring over 20 people in the southern port city of Zamboanga.

Responding to these security threats, Soliman said: "They are routinely politically related and are not Games-related.

Besides, our fears are negated for a crisis of these security personnel to our athletes in the Games."

He added that General Rodolfo Tor, who has handled key global events like an Apec in Subic several years ago, has been appointed as Head of security.

Asked about the perceived security threat and whether Singapore would pull out if the situation worsens, Goo said: "I'll leave it up to the professionals and relevant authorities to advise us. For now, our main concern is the upcoming sport. The Straits Times/Asia News Network

Top rookie bet behind Mapua semifinal surge

By Jeanne M. Poyo

GRONDEZ up in Canada, Edwin dela Peña felt there was no way he'd make it big in basketball.

"I love playing basketball, but in Canada, basketball is not really taken seriously. It's more of hockey," said Dela Peña, the Mapua Cardinals guard and the top Rookie of the Pre-condition in the MCial basketball tournament this season.

"Here, basketball is more serious and the spotlight is on you whether you play good or bad," the 6-foot-1 rugsy added.

Dela Peña slowly provided the Cardinals the much needed firepower to reach the semifinals this year.

"I know how to play mind games and I know how to get to my advantage," said Dela Peña, who averaged 12.6 points and ranked second in assists (2.3 apg) and second in steals (1.2/3 apg) at the end of the first round.

"Between two competitive guys on the floor, the one who knows how to hold it together comes out on top," he said.

However, the 20-year-old Mapua star Dela Peña admits on the court doesn't end with the court.

"If they think I'm cocky or if I'm overrated then that is their judgment," said Dela Peña. "What I'm just trying to do is to win for my team."

Dela Peña is the son of former professional player Ricardo dela Peña, who suited up for San Miguel and Sunkist.

The rare athlete that try to find time for basketball that I always concentrate in letting the game come to you, never forcing to get there," said the 22-year-old psychology student.

Back in Canada, Dela Peña sealed up for the UBC Royal College in Calgary, Alberta but was initiated by the old Canadian boss.

Dela Peña first had to deal with rejection from other schools before earning a spot in the Cardinals' roster.

"I guess they just didn't want me," Dela Peña said candidly.

But Mapua coach Bonnie Lim saw a potential that Dela Peña quickly showed that he indeed deserves to play in the local collegiate hoops.

DELA PEÑA / Cox plays crowd favorite.

Roddick tumbles out

US Open debutant scores huge shocker

NEW YORK—The worst birthday of Andy Roddick's life ended with three straight tiebreak losses and a shocking first-round exit from the US Open against a player ranking his debut in the tournament on Tuesday.

Roddick, five champion two years ago and the No. 3 seed this year fell, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (1), on his 23rd birthday to Gilles Muller, the first man from Luxembourg to compete in the Open.

The 22-year-old Muller, ranked No. 64, outlasted, outlasted and, most astonishingly, outscored Roddick, 24-17, to claim his second huge upset of the summer in his first Wimbledon, he beat French Open champion Rafael Nadal.

Asked how he managed to dismantle Roddick, Muller replied thoughtfully: "I have no idea."

"For me, it was just another match to come out here today," Muller said. "I told myself to enjoy it and I did every minute."

Roddick batted away amateur of it when blowing a 5-2 lead in the first set and a chance to serve out that set at 6-5. From there on, Roddick seemed unnerved by the fast-paced Muller's mix of angled groundstrokes and serves, his blend of speeds, and his seeming ability to hit low other line.

Roddick flung his racket to the ground, dropped it another time in disgust, and kept thumping his serve into the netting instead. And then a few times he turned to the fans when Muller's shots landed, as if not believing his eyes, or wondered the replays on the giant screen atop the stadium.

"I don't really remember a lot, where I've felt this bad offensively," Roddick said. "I was playing fairly. I probably had the best practice week I've ever had in Indy. It just didn't translate tonight. I'm in a little bit of shock right now, to be honest. I'd give anything to go back four hours right now."

Muller didn't serve as well as Roddick but they didn't matter. Roddick couldn't figure out how to break him in the tiebreaks and, in the last two sets, Muller won on serving himself. Roddick bashed Muller in the chest in the fourth set's second tiebreak, causing up 60 minutes. Roddick's 30, though making 33 unforced errors to 61 by Roddick.

"I took some risks, and maybe sometimes I was also lucky," Muller said.

Luck wasn't needed for No. 3 Roger Federer, who won his first-round match against Greek newcomer Ivo Minar, 6-1, 6-1, 6-1, in 1 hour, 1 minute earlier in the day.

It was a continuing afternoon at the Open as defending champion Federer cruised, No. 22 Tim Henman, No. 6 Andy Roddick, No. 23 Greg Rusedski, No. 25 James Blake of the United States, 7-5, 7-6 (5), 6-3.

Wimbledon champion Lindsay Davenport won, 6-4, 6-4, over No. 14 Elena Dementieva, a Russian beauty crossing, of the French Open Andrea Petkovic, a German Olympian, 6-4, 6-3, and champ over Zuzana Ondraskova of the Czech Republic. That's another Russian beauty crossing, of Rafael Nadal, 6-0, 6-2.

Sharapova advanced to the second round for the first time since 2002.

After playing more than three sets only once this year—and forced to serve from his last outing in Poland earlier this month—Roddick prevailed in a match that four of those hours and one minutes.

AP

GILLES Muller has every reason to cheer his joy. The Luxembourg native has earlier scored the US Open's biggest upset. ►►

BOWLING 'SIN OVER: Philippine Daily Inquirer-Tropic Bowling Tournament Class A Champions (l-r) Marvin Velasco receives top with the runner's big bronze after receiving their trophies. Standing from left are Victor Lee (bowling coach), PSI president Sandy Prisco-Remolador, Alec Prisco, Lee, Warren (alternate) and team), PSI's Ruth Marie, Prisco, Arthur Pharmacy sponsor) and Carlo Lo Mariano (assistant business editor). Sitting from left are Jun Esguerra (news editor), Ervic Santos (graphic artist), Ike Reyes (editorial assistant), Jerri Alcantara (editorial assistant), Mathew Rubio (graphic artist) and Abel Kimbap (assistant editor).

Pacquiao asked to throw ceremonial pitch in MLB

POLITICAL heavyweights, Hollywood superstars, sporting legends, and now, the country's very own Manny Pacquiao.

The Filipino boxing hero joins an elite list of world-recognized personalities in opening baseball games after being invited to throw the ceremonial first pitch for Major League games in stadiums, California.

According to reports, the former two-time world champion were initially in Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim's game tonight, but the first pitch night before the crucial game between the Los Angeles Angels and the Oakland Athletics.

Among the famous celebrities who had been asked to throw the ceremonial pitch at baseball are US President George W. Bush, superstar Michael Jordan and multi-Oscar-winning great Bruce Willis.

Pacquiao will be following in the footsteps of Latino beauty and "Desperate Housewives" star Eva Longoria, who threw the ceremonial pitch for the Los Angeles Dodgers' game against the New York Yankees.

Pacquiao is currently training for his fight. If Oscar against Pakistan Alvarez in Inglewood at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Sabrina C. Legarinday

Happy ending

SPECTATOR

AJA Mendoza

I LAM glad that Buddy Encinocido is coming glad.

He is glad because, in all probability, he may get Eng Alex Cabagnot.

"All well that ends well," Buddy said. "I've talked to the parents of Alex and they can't wait all is matter of non-consequence."

The Cabagnots told Buddy that Alex left for Los Angeles to pretend over what Alex missed with Charles Tri's undecided ding of the negotiations with Mr. Leroy regarding where playing could be with the Aces.

Before the conversation by overseas phone took place on Monday night between Buddy and three's parents, Buddy was fuming over the sudden disappearance of Cabagnot, the Letran's No. 2 draft pick this year.

Who wouldn't be?

On Aug. 23, Buddy signed the three-year deal for Cabagnot's stint at Sta. Lucia totaling $800. The following day, Aug. 24, Charlie Tri Cabagnot's agent, signed it, too.

The rule had briefly dried up when Buddy got the news that Cabagnot had flown to Los Angeles, leaving poor Buddy in the dark.

"Mr. Charlie Tri told our Alex opted to pursue his studies instead of honoring the deal. He has to play for St. Louis," said Buddy. "I'm really shocked me as it was, are's out of line. If he had planned to study, why did he have to go through the draft? Something's missing somewhere."

According to Buddy, the parents of Cabagnot, particularly Alex's father said they had dropped Tri in Cabagnot's agent.

"Mr. Cabagnot told me he would fly over and represent Alex himself when we negotiate a new contract," Buddy said.

OK, remember what I said about Cabagnot being the first "choosee" in the Draft? It take that back only when Cabagnot resolutes and explains why he flew the coop!

This still stands.

Tri also described as shocking the news that Cabagnot had flown to Los Angeles, leaving poor Buddy in the dark.

"Mr. Charlie Tri told our Alex opted to pursue his studies instead of honoring the deal. He has to play for St. Louis," said Buddy. "I'm really shocked me as it was, are's out of line. If he had planned to study, why did he have to go through the draft? Something's missing somewhere."

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Thanks that Lam can come as far as his three shows up and re-starts negotiations with Buddy.

Meanwhile, I invite Charlie Tri to see his side of the matter. There's a space waiting for him here.

Are they now throwing shit at each other?

It appears so.

If I were Meying Madrilejos, I'd keep my gun holstered instead of retaining cousin Bai from Sous Lins.

If you ask me, Meying is about to find out if public sentiment—long having the upper hand—shouldn't digest any shot whatsoever or that might only drag one down or be pin.

Amid an overwhelming advantage, they're also daring to go against the ruling class. They are but harmless jabs of a pug that's over the hill.

I have claimed, again, the Board of Judges for Items in Pilipino of the 2005 Palanca Memorial Awards. Tonight, the winners will be listed at the Manila Peninsula with UP President Dr. Emerlinda Roman to host as the guest of honor. I promised Hiram Bonilla, a Palanca Tallade since the '70s, I'll be there.

"In short, I commend you to be there and read the names of the winners during the awards Night," Bonna said.

Like my fellow judges Nini Rodrigo of UP Diliman and Merci Lopez of Ateneo de Manila, who the winners are I also will don't know.

Letters are identified through numbers and the names of the writers are in a sealed envelope kept under the care of Palanca officials. In no time, not names, not numbers, concealed the identities of the authors.

Different times, different things.

Anyway, in all the winners, cheers! May your victory spur you to continue to produce more works of art.

TAGTIBILAG: Palo president Rico V. Ilarmada will open Sunday the holding of the Bale Anniversary Open Golf tournament on Sept. 5 at Sta. Elena Compound of 1120 members. Bo Plata is a major ally in the country's vigorous campaign for economic growth, mainly in the area of international new foreign borrowing business. Here, an unstable inflow and benefits his guests, has been a friend for years. Good luck, buddy.

E-mail: mcapi@philstar.net

Indonesia frees Aceh rebel prisoners

JAKARTA—Indonesia's president on Tuesday signed a decree granting amnesty to separatist rebels in Aceh province, clearing the way for more than 1,400 guerrillas to be freed from jail, the state secretary said.

The decree was the expected next step in the implementation of a historic peace agreement signed between the rebels and the government in Helsinki earlier this month. It had to be passed by Wednesday at the latest.

"Today the president (Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono) signed the presidential decree ... on amnesty for those involved in the Free Aceh Movement (GAM)," Yusril Ihza Mahendra told a press conference.

The decree, a copy of which was obtained by AFP, stipulates that amnesty is granted to all GAM members, whether they are detained and serving jail sentences or are currently free.

GAM members convicted of crimes unrelated to the separatist movement are not eligible for amnesty.

"With the granted amnesty, the person's social, political, economic and other rights shall be restored," the decree said.

The peace accord, inked after six months of negotiations that were sparked off by last December's tsunami, paves the way for an end to 29 years of conflict which has left about 15,000 people dead, mostly civilians.

Under the deal, GAM dropped its long-held demand for independence for a form of local self-government and agreed to disarm and demobilise its fighters.

Indonesia promised in return to withdraw its non-local security forces by the end of the year, offer amnesties to rebels by aug. 31 and allow the creation of political parties in the resource-rich province.

More than 1,400 prisoners are now expected to be released from jail on Wednesday under the arrangements.

The deal has authorised partners for both Indonesian and foreign members of the separatist group, as was expected. GAM's exiled chief is to settle in Sweden.

"Everybody who gets an amnesty has lost his Indonesian citizenship, and currently holds a foreign citizenship or no citizenship. Now he has to obtain his Indonesian citizenship back," the decree said. Rebels must abandon any foreign citizenship however within six months, it added, and pledge allegiance to Indonesia.

Parliamentarians, assessed as not being consulted during the largely-secret negotiations with the rebels, had called for them to swear an oath of allegiance to the government as a precondition for amnesty. AFP

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EMBARRASSED by BAD BREATH?

Netanyahu to challenge Sharon

TEL AVIV—Benjamin Netanyahu launched his month-anticipated campaign Tuesday to oust Prime Minister Ariel Sharon from the leadership of the right-wing Likud party with a blistering attack on Israel's pullout from Gaza.

"I intend to lead us to victory in the upcoming elections and re-establish the new government in the spirit of Likud," the media-savvy former premier told a news conference to launch his campaign. "The Likud needs a leader who can unite the ranks, who can rebuild the trust and unite the Likud behind it, and afterwards, rehabilitate the country in the spirit of our principles," the 55-year-old former career army officer said.

Netanyahu quit the government in protest at Sharon's decision to unilaterally pull troops and settlers out of the occupied Gaza Strip.

Netanyahu said he would not rule out any future political settlement with the Palestinians, but added: "Israel cannot withdraw to the 1967 borders."

He also said he would not negotiate with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas "as long as terrorism is not uprooted."

Netanyahu's challenge to Sharon is expected to be a tough one. Sharon is the country's most popular politician and has the backing of the majority of Likud members in parliament. AFP

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IMPORTANT
Tomorrow, September 2, 2005, will be the FIRST FRIDAY of the month.
An Activity Conducted by Rosales, DB will be the celebrant at the 6:00 PM mass on Friday at the Sinulucan de San Antonio Parish Park.
Fr. Crestwil Dorsay, the feeding priest, will preside at the 7:00 PM mass at the parish center.

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Lebanon names murder suspects

BEIRUT—In the first major break in a crisis that reverberated Lebanon, the United Nations on Tuesday named four pro-Syrian generals and a former legislator as suspects in the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

The Lebanese government, acting at the request of the UN, detained three of the men for questioning in the Parliament building in Beirut. A fourth surrendered for interrogation and a fifth returned from Syria, according to reports.

The moves against such once-powerful generals and politicians would have been unthinkable a few months ago when the country and its government still were under Syrian control. But Syria's troop withdrawal in April has turned the country's power structure on its head. After the UN investigation, Syria could no longer openly throw decades of influence in the country under intense domestic and international pressure. New parliamentary elections swept into power pro-democracy opposi-

Tuesday's startling developments, however, still could produce serious political fallout in the country, particularly by targeting the commander of the Presidential Guards Brigade, Brig. Gen. Mustafa Hamdan, who provides security for and is an associate of pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud, a bitter political foe of Hariri's domestic ally—namely opponents the questioning.

Lahoud said the statements were not accurate and praised Hamdan as "one of the best officers in the Lebanese army."

Besides Hamdan, the generals swept up in Tuesday's actions were: Maj. Gen. Jamil Sayyed, former chief of the powerful General Security department; Maj. Gen. Ali Haj, former police chief, and Brig. Gen. Raymond Azar, former head of military intelligence.

The four generals have been questioned previously by German prosecutor Detlev Mehlis, the UN-backed investigator who began his probe that has surrounded. Details of the investigations are not, and nothing was known about what evidence led to the detentions Tuesday.

Irish Department spokesperson Sean McGovern welcomed Mehlis' efforts to get to the bottom of Hariri's murder and said, "the Lebanese people deserve to know what happened."

Separately, state television reported three officers and Hamdan's brother also were detained for questioning.

Middle-East Prime Minister Farid Jarrara and Justice Minister Charles Rizk on Tuesday met and in a statement that his investigators had searched the homes of the four generals "before bringing them to a suspects for questioning."

Mehlis also summoned former legislator Nasser Qandil, a staunch defender of Syria's influence in Lebanon. Qandil was a driver when police seized to his Beirut house, but later returned by car and was escorted by two police vehicles from the Lebanese border to the capital, he later commented to reporters. He said he would cooperate with the investigation. "I place myself at their (UN team's) disposal and at the disposal of anything that took to speeding up the unveiling of the truth" in Hariri's murder, Qandil said.

Hariri's assassination in a massive bombing on a Beirut street Feb. 14 that also killed 20 others sparked mass anti-Syrian protests and intensified international pressure on Syria to withdraw its army, ending 29 years of control of its neighbor. AP

FLUORESCENT FISH
This photo, released by Taiwan's Academia Sinica, shows a microscopic view of a Zebrafish fluorescent organs, in Taipei, Taiwan which will be used to test new drugs. AP

China to close 7,000 coal mines

BEIJING—In the face of a rising death toll this year, China has ordered one-third of its coal mines to suspend production by the end of this year because they are unsafe.

Industry insiders said the suspension will leave a huge number of miners jobless, but coal supply will only be slightly affected because most of the pits involved are small.

The State Administration of Coal Mine Safety published yesterday the first group of 1,234 mines required to stop production and meet national safety standards. If they do not, they will be shut down permanently.

"The number is not all of the mines that be suspended, the total will reach 7,000 soon," the administration's press officer, surnamed Jia, told China Daily.

Administration figures indicate that China has about 24,000 coal mines, which supply 75 percent of the country's annual energy demand. However, because of the constant culture of using employment, no official statistics on the number of miners are available.

Jia said the responsibility to monitor the suspensions and reopening the safety improvement of the 7,000 mines will fall on local governments. "The central government will soon investigate mines which require provincial and local governments to play a key role in safeguarding coal mine safety," she said. "Otherwise, they will be severely punished."

Jia said a new coastal government system for monitoring coal mines will be announced today, which includes detailed measures to prevent coalmine disasters.

Some local governments and officials have been protecting poorly equipped coal mines, whose accidents have claimed an average of 18 miners a day in the first six months of 2005 alone.

In the United States and other developed countries, the annual death toll in coal mines is generally no higher than 40. Chinese Daily / Asia Japan Agency

World's oldest person dies

THE HAGUE—The person described as the world's oldest, Hendrikje van Andel-Schipper of the Netherlands, has died aged 115. The widowed home where she lived said Tuesday.

It said she died in her sleep in the home in the northern town of Hoogeveen.

Mrs. Andel-Schipper was Guinness Book records say born 29, 1890 and her mother had said at the time: "This child is not meant to live," the Dutch news agency ANP reported.

She had already doubled her body to survive and made plans to be taken to the previously boarded in the city of Groningen after her death.

Mrs. Andel-Schipper was also verified but suffered no other ailments.

She was married in 1909, aged 40, to Hessy Schipper, whom she had met there years earlier, and was widowed in 1956.

At the opening of the Ajax Amsterdam football club, of which she was a lifetime supporter, visited her on her 114th birthday.

The Guinness Book of World Records recognized Mrs. Andel-Schipper as the world's oldest woman. AFP

ENTERTAINMENT

Ronaldo to Bing: Just be patient

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTOR Ronaldo Valdez said he wished his daughter-in-law, Bing Loyzaga were "more patient" because his son, Jamie Gibbs, would eventually "outgrow his childish ways."

"Kung magpasensiya siyang paghintayan, pagpasensyahan na lang niya siguro," Ronaldo told PEP.com.ph entertainment on Tuesday. "Jamie is still young, naguguwapo rin 'yan."

In an interview on the show "Ito Talk Pa Rin" on ABS-CBN last week, Bing admitted that she had split up with Jamie. She said one of the reasons was another woman.

In the picture

Many women have in fact been dragged in to the picture, including Seahawk dancer Jojay Paguia and Ate Mhai's sister Christine Reyes. Both women have refused to comment on the issue.

On "The Buzz," Bing said she wanted his husband back. Then she refused to grant any more interviews.

Jamie is currently in Switzerland for a series of shows with Nina Morales.

Just waiting

Ronaldo admitted that he had heard of the couple's troubles, but said he decided to keep quiet. He explained: "They never confided to me. I guess they were trying to fix things between them. I never confronted Jamie. Ashley (Reyes) is."

He continued: "There were instances when they confided to me and my wife about several things. Kami naman sabi, we're just waiting to be asked. Hindi naman kami nagbibigay ng payo. Now that our children are adults, they are responsible for their actions."

Ronaldo said he always told Jamie to "stay away from trouble as much as possible. If you can't avoid it, be careful, be observer."

"IF THEY want my advice—I'm just waiting to be asked."

This mom and her daughter feed on illusion

GUESS LIST:

Guess who this mother and daughter are! One could write a book about their endless love team. They are already a laughing stock in the biz but it seems they thrive on hostilities. Their latest article happened during the fall of a typhoon. The mother's voice was blaring as she talked on her cell phone. "Hi (name of a TV host)! Wha, my daughter misses you, too!" She warned everybody to hear what she was saying. She even yelled out to her TV host/singer daughter "Teryl it's — on the phone!" The room has been screaming stories about the TV host being head over heels in love with her daughter. Suddenly her cell phone rang! Apparently there was nobody on the other end of the line. And just tonight "hello Gerald" was strange, huh? Now there's, "hello nobody!"

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

Guess who this hunk is! One segment reporter of a talk show tried to have a big crush on him until she got to interview the actor. Imagine a saliva shower: the reporter and her mic got drenched. So now she no longer salivates over the actor!

Guess who this sexy actress singer is! When asked about a young actor being linked to her, she blurts out the (in)famous last words, "We're just friends!" Hit her actions say otherwise.

She gives away inspirational books to everyone she knows too, saying, "(name of the young actor) wants you to have this!" She gets a kick out of name-dropping the actor with a snobbish twinkle of the eyes.

Her prostitution assistant, who could no longer stand it, told a reporter: "Hindi na niya yata kaibigan ng Espiritu ng Diyos!" She will definitely be a "closed book" as far as the actor is concerned when he discovers her double operandi. As the reporter put it, "Nobody didn't see beside." And that will blow her chances of ever being a "booking" with the young actor!

Bits and pieces

Got a storyline call from my longtime friend **Aga Muhlach**. I remember him as a chubby teen who never got tired of dancing. His ex **Arlene**, outside Hindi and I would totally loose him on the dance floor. I texted Aga a belated birthday greeting. Upon receiving my text, he called me right away. He's one of the few people in the biz who always makes you feel that he's really there for you even if you don't see each other that much. Whenever I'm embroiled in some show biz controversy, "Buenog" (his pet name) never fails to give me the most sensible advice. I am looking forward to watching his movie, "Tribal," with **Claudine Barretto** and **John Lloyd Cruz**. It will also be shown in Milan, San Francisco, Montreal, Saipan, Vienna and, of course, Tribal. It's high time the world got a taste of Aga's "magic Grace" charisma.

THESE PEOPLE !!!

ROUNDUP

Gwyneth's opinion

GWYNETH Paltrow

JENNIFER Aniston

NEW YORK—Gwyneth Paltrow says the publicity of Brad Pitt's breakup with Jennifer Aniston could have been avoided.

"It would have been a lot easier on Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston now if they had not talked to the press about each other and everything to begin with," Paltrow says in this week's Time magazine, extremely un-newsmaidy.

The 32-year-old actress went through heavy tabloid coverage herself when she dated Pitt in the 1990s. They broke off their engagement in 1997.

Paltrow, now married to Coldplay frontman Chris Martin, values her privacy. The couple have a year-old daughter, Apple.

Last week, a California judge signed off on the divorce of Aniston and Pitt. Aniston told Vanity Fair, "The sad thing, for me, is the way it's been reduced to a Hollywood divorce—or maybe it's just a human divorce."

AP

OPM revenge

IN A RECENT press gathering for his Araneta Coliseum concert "Symphony of the Heart," Gary Valenciano cracked Scottish Rocker leader Jay Durias as saying that OPM was enjoying a resurgence in spite of piracy.

"It's because of the persistence and passion of Pinoy bands," Gary V continued. "Sales of local CDs is higher than foreign albums. The market share used to be 30-70 in favor of foreign albums; now it's the exact opposite."

Durias told PEPcom Entertainment: "Actually, I was referring to airtime. OPM is now heard more often on radio and TV (on music channels like Myx and MTV Asia) than foreign songs. Also, we are hearing more original compositions than revivals. I guess, that also translates to CD sales."

However it's put, it must be music to record execs.

Bgy and San Diego Jr.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

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Two new arenas

BY ROLLING out last Tuesday, opposition members of the House of Representatives' committee on justice did everyone a favor. The walkout will, at the very least, mercifully cut short the committee hearings, giving the whole country a breather from a hard television ride that is long on sound to be entertaining. At the same time, pro-administration lawmakers will be spared the pain and embarrassment of continuing to display on national television how they can mangle the rules, the law and logic to keep President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang. For the opposition, on the other hand, the walkout simply proved what most Filipinos already know: that the administration is determined to spare its resources or effort, as well as its stupid, overly thick-in-the-boots, to get the President off the hook.

EDITORIAL

After walking out of the hearings, the question is, where will the pro-impeachment congressmen go next? Apparently no one wants to go back to the committee where they could again be gagged and surely outvoted by the majority. The hotheads among them are probably hoping they would soon be marching in the streets with the kind of huge and angry crowd that would make Malacañang flee in fear. But the calculating seems to be that they will take their fight to the floor where the House, meeting in plenary, will debate and vote on the committee's final recommendation. Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes said that instead of taking part in a "bastardized process," their group would concentrate on convincing more of their colleagues to sign the impeachment complaint so that they could get the 79 votes needed to override the committee's decision.

They better reach double-time. The pro-Arroyo express has shifted to high gear, with the committee on justice last night ratifying the vote on the first "prejudicial question" left briefly hanging by their walkout. Late Tuesday afternoon, in fact, the committee voted to consider as separate the three complaints that had been endorsed to the committee. Yesterday, it voted to consider only the original complaint filed lawyer Oliver Lozano, which has all the earmarks of a stalling tactic designed to stop on its tracks the third and much stronger amended complaint put together by various opposition lawmakers and groups.

Gathering signatures to reach the magic number of 79, however, may be only one half of the battle. The other half may have to be waged in the Supreme Court. Considering the most likely case where the committee on justice reports to the plenary that it found the Lozano complaint insufficient in form and substance. Will the pro-impeachment congressmen then vote to override the committee recommendation and send the very weak complaint to the senate for trial? If they cannot settle for that pathetic excuse for an impeachment complaint, how then can they ensure that the stronger amended complaint will be the one transmitted to the Senate as the articles of impeachment? In other words, can the votes of one-third of the House set aside everything that the committee on justice has decided?

If the President and her allies think she can leave for the United Nations with a clean bill of (political) health later this month, they are wrong. The opposition congressmen and their allies may have shrunken and the justice committee and its proceedings, but their cause is far from lost. They have two arenas in which to continue their fight: the Supreme Court and the plenary. After being outflanked, outmaneuvered or simply outnumbered in the committee, they can be expected to come better prepared this time. Malacañang will remain stuck in the muck for a long time yet.

Right to deport

THE MEMORANDUM of understanding (MoU) recently signed between Jordan and Britain allowing the latter to deport Jordanians considered a security risk to countries that torture and abuse them.

FOREIGN COMMENT

Perhaps a closer reading of the MoU would sing the ongoing advocacies of human rights groups, including prominent Jordanians who had been deported from the United Kingdom to Jordan for security reasons once he returned to their home countries

Opposition lost points with walkout

THE WALKOUT staged by the opposition was a big disappointment for anyone who expected some substantive issues to be raised. One was left with the impression that some members of the opposition congressional minority, as caught by the TV cameras, spent those hours of pulling out papers in the air, subtle, some flamboyant, hiding behind a newspaper. In retrospect, the walkout was a big mistake. It was roundly criticized by the people. Speaker Jose de Venecia is said to have positively endorsed the walkout. Opposition leaders Senate President Frank Drilon and Representative Rodolfo Biazon harangued him and jabbed their fingers at him. At the height of the Erap impeachment, many people, when passions ran high, the nastier they got. Some Malacañang officials had ways to counter them. Senator Joker Arroyo is the best example. Senator Jinggoy Estrada is also said to be a counter. "I'm looking at you." Obviously the young Senator is one I'm sure we can have a different mind.

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

As any point, another suspicion: Rep. Robert Jaworski Jr., haranguing the justice committee chair, Rep. Simeon Datumanong (who is a fine, smart gentleman, fine term, magnificent and more), Senator Gordon remarks Jaworski said the congressmen should watch the Senate hearings on the Senate Blue Ribbon committee, where the lawyers refer to the chairman as "sir." That is something we live with every day where I come from, as don't threaten me like that. Each senator we come here, Jaworski apparently said, looks like a "mini-Jaworski" reversed.

The problem with some of these young opposition lawmakers is that they seem to have become so arrogant and self-righteous.

The behavior of these two seemingly experienced men and a few of their youthful colleagues lends credence to reports that fierce debates have been going on since last week as to what the opposition should do next to keep the issue alive. There are a lot of differences in thinking between the young lawmakers and their older colleagues.

Last Tuesday apparently the young lawmakers, among them the loquacious whose political sense has not been sufficiently honed, won when they convinced the entire minority to stage a walkout.

There are reports that Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel was heard saying that the walkout was a big mistake. I agree.

* * *

Anyone who has followed the lengthy debates, which were given free rein by the ever-smiling Datumanong, knew that the minority opposition was last argued every point but that, in the end, it comes down to a vote in the committee, where the majority rules. The opposition, though it protests, knows that it has the majority in the committee unless the amended committee is given preference. That's not acceptable to the majority so the only battleground left for the opposition is the plenary debates, where only members of the House can make a real stir now.

* * *

At this point, it's safe to say that because of the behavior of its members last Tuesday the opposition lost many points in the House members would be among the people. La Union Rep. Manuel Ortega, who said that he followed the hearings for the impeachment complaint but it has since then, and he was expecting to see more substance in the opposition's walkout in the early behavior of the opposition. The morally behavior by partisans in the gallery and on the hearing grounds, who threw the House into disorder. The opposition lawmakers that have scored off a lot of criticism, so did a big mark selected with red flags that carried a big message that said, "We're with surrender." This helps explain why there was an outrage from the people like Pimentel. The majority of us Filipinos really want to see this issue resolved quickly.

* * *

Some observations have been made about the timing of the press conference of some of the "Hyatt 10" Tuesday morning, where they made new "revelations" about certain questionable acts of GMA, and the walkout of the opposition in the afternoon. The two events are now being tied together, the way the events of July 8 were interconnected.

In order to detract from the resolution of Florencio Abad and Gaston Soliman, they should realize that people do not look kindly on those who bite the hand that feeds them. It is a law or in political relations. This is deemed the highest form of treachery.

* * *

Moreover, there is jurisprudence in the United States, after which our legal and judicial system was patterned, and here that recognizes the right of the president to the confidentiality of his conversations and correspondence," which is deemed to "the claim of confidentiality of judicial deliberations." This was very pronounced in the Watergate scandal, when President Richard Nixon refused for the first time ever "executive privilege" a "executive" tapes and notes some, although not necessarily a new term." Thus, there is a more than solid basis for the confidentiality of the Neri-Senate executive session, based on previous jurisprudence as well as the rules of court. Lawyers note, for instance, Sec. 24 (f), Rule 130 (), which provides: "A public officer cannot be examined during his term of office as to communications made to him in official confidence, when the court finds that public interest would suffer by the disclosure."

Another point that should be noted is the allegation made by Abad that the Chief Executive and that Paguia cited Ellsberg-Gonzalez by first was supposedly answered by Chiz by saying that she couldn't do so since "he can take part of the matter and the witness." That defies logic. Chiz and Abad are members that same day (we really it has since appeared on media practitioners as well as bishops.

Oil of life

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

SEVERAL times I tried to call in line to buy a can of sardines with lot number 666 from a Mamang Sardinero pull can, but the line was, uh, so long, I gave up. But there were other canned products with lot number 666 just as alluring and interesting—lip balm, mouthwash, bath soap, non-dairy creamer, diesel additives, vinegar, all kinds of food. And of course, the controversial PCSO which was the first to be found with lot number 666 on its lottery which 4-5 Million Gracious Diamond holed to 666 Mega stuff last weekend.

A bomb-killing caution with numerous using the mischief-filled symbol was giving a Power-Point presentation on Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's popular song, "Gracious" as background music.

Professorial-different pants of the running. GCG came in various kinds and packaging—silver, gold, bronze, regular, super, ultra. But the daughter of the president should be the same.

There is a lot of work to be done in order to put the Philippine-produced products on the world's dining tables, medicine shelves, beauty stores and gas stations.

Still, as the Philippine Gracious Authority had announced, VCD copies are up 2M pesos from the same period last year and up 150 percent in export earnings. Gracious Diamond is "the best" of last year. That is from the good news article by Christine Caghayeod of the nation's Business Section.

For themselves and for their country, overseas produce entrepreneurs, dancewriters, interviewers, designers, professors, models, writers and artists and their stars about successful gathered last weekend in the trade fair and exhibit, to wear their hair of showing that they were pushing on and pushing on to put behind the political debacle in the Benigno Aquino.

I wouldn't help thinking a campfire thoughts—those ECO producers should send their quite-willing audience a bottle each of spectacular ECO to wear to their next speech.

I was at the fair for the book launching of "The Trials Anna Gracious Of: The Treasures in a Bottle" (anna-bibliakang-ito-ni-Consuelo) Barth, ancient pharmacologist-historian, anthropologist, author, pro-

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

fessor and mentioning medical researcher. He has helped women in the income of an ardent global glory and put it back in the global place in the realm of "feel-good medicine." Her book explains what spices or ingredients were used on Santo (To be Life Lasting Cleanser"), which I write. The rice extract of rose petals of the marigold, multi-faceted 88-large-sized pearls from the Sulu Sea (DE).

There was not enough space in that article to discuss Barth's painstaking groundbreaking work and discoveries about ancient oil because I had to focus on the amazing person. So now, more on that person and her work.

The background of all these was the fact that unnamed fact, current oil in particular, were being blamed as the cause of increased cholesterol levels (high blood pressure diseases). The discovery of the so-called Lipid Hot Heart Theory propounded by the west. Dayrit now teaches that as "brainwashing." Attempts to prove that theory wrong were either ignored or suppressed because the interests of multinational drug companies—who again benefit the decline of coconut oil.

Coconut oil is now regaining its good name, thanks to Dayrit and his researchers who have proven by scientific research that coconut oil consumed in the form of virgin coconut oil (VCO), in moderate health benefits and why it has been maligned all these years. And so for the good and one hailed taken for and side used as he said."

Cars scraps Cibao available as the first-day bank fair in Nabua's Trade Center over ECO's long story! So sorry that Maria Cecilia the girl of the glorious coconut.

* * *

(feedback@inquirer.com.ph)

The walkout by the minority

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

SO it's possible, after all, to squeeze blood from a turnip. The opposition has been belittled, from the time of the impeachment trial of Supreme Court Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to the impeachment of Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, for their inability to score a splendid lawyer, but he certainly has a knack some of how to bag the headlines. His outspoken host founded the practice every step of the way, heading to the door in mid-linguistic statements he'd've seen in the House.

By all accounts, the Black & White forces was supposed to help influence incoming congressmen, and to that end was supposed to be led by Senate President Franklin Drilon, the man to be known as

Nation will be more healthy if Filipinos bike to work

If it's comforting to know that the government is finally thinking of other means to reduce oil consumption. By encouraging people to ride their bikes to work, the government will end up with a source of reimbursement, positive "side effects" that, when put together, will do our country a lot of good.

1. An increase in the number of people on bikes will increase the number of healthier people. This means there will be a decrease in the number of those who will avail themselves of health services, thus removing the need for health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to raise prices every year due to the constant rise in the use of availments of medical benefits. With the slenderness in (fad) price bikes, companies will not be forced to "downgrade" to cheaper (HMOs) than provide better-quality medical services. This will directly benefit those employees who already need the expensive medical services than cheap HMOs caution provide.

2. Healthier employees also mean there will be fewer absences due to sickness, stress, fewer wasted work hours and missed deadlines.

3. More bikes on the road will result to fewer cars, meaning pollution levels will decrease, even if just a little bit.

4. If enough motorists convert to using bicycles, the demand for gasoline may go down, enough to slow down gasoline price hikes. This will lower the overhead costs of businesses, thus helping them prosper, and also strengthening our economy.

5. A slowdown in gas price increases will also mean a slowdown in the rate of living. There are many more I can think of, but these are the five that I think are most important.

—RAYMOND TOMATO

AVE represents a professional sector

THE has reference to the front-page article titled "Militants mobilize for party-list groups' accreditation," (PDI, 8/8/'05) The author, Jaime Laude, claimed there were some party-list groups that should not have been accredited for the 2004 elections. Among those was the Alliance of Volunteer Educators (AVE).

The author cites unnamed Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano supposedly admitting that the Commission on Elections allowed questionable party-list groups to take part in the elections. I am concerned with the inclusion of AVE in such a list.

The article further stated that "AVE was formed at the Assumption area in Binondoon by politicians led by Alan Jay, or Allan in the new previous elections." AVE is not an offshoot—it has not been in any way part—of any organization. Linking AVE or Allan in an offhanded way to the men and women, young and old, who contributed their blood, sweat and tears for the restoration of democracy in our country is not only misleading but also malicious.

Under the Party List Law, a party-list group that fails to obtain at least two percent of the votes cast in the elections is disqualified from participating in the succeeding elections. Allan has taken two-time category. The insinuation that Allan "unconstitutional" into AVE is false, to say the least.

Sen. Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. was also reported to be behind AVE. The answer has nothing to do with AVE, which was founded and nonpublished by Edwin Ramos, Fr. Magsaysay, Greg Lanzo Jimenez and me in 1999, and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission in 2000. AVE sought accreditation on its own, without any political backing.

The article also cited the Supreme Court's decision annulling the election that are entitled to party-list seats in Congress, to say before, possibly, Father Hilario, an Jesuit priest, indigenous cultural communities, elderly, handicapped, women, youth, overseas workers and professionals. AVE represents a professional group that, as we all know, is marginalized. Indeed, our sectors are underpaid to a point that most of them are living below the poverty threshold. The workers are the least paid and must endure. It is a group of the professionals. If we are not marginalized or underrepresented, then who is?

—JOSEL BATEL
co-founder/national chair,
Alliance of Volunteer Educators (AVE),
ave_party@hotmail.com

(I'd like to thank Mr. Ramos for his letter. Just a minor correction though. I never claimed AVE was one of several party-list groups that should not have been accredited for the 2004 poll. In the blog, Pastor A. Corcuera maybe was quoted as having asked why Mr. Ramos's group was allowed to run.

—JERRY ESPLANADA,
PDI reporter

LETTERS

Iniquitous burden for SSS pensioners?

I WANT to know whom and how does one go about knocking to the Olympian doors of the Social Security System when one wants to be enlightened on the new SSS policy which mandates "All pensioners to have their semestral medical check-ups or as low as have their younger premium suspended."

I want to know who will shoulder the expenses for this annual medical check-up. If the pensioner is the one paying for the medical check-up, it will be an iniquitous burden for the pensioners whose meager pension is not enough to support even their daily needs, especially with the cost of living galloping briskly.

I view this new policy authoritative, arbitrary and contrary to the spirit of the SSS.

The SSS was constituted primarily to promote social justice and provide meaningful protection to members and their beneficiaries."

The money legally taken from its members should be given to them without condition as it is their right to get back their money, and it should be with interest on dividends, like other government BIR suspension who, though already receiving as much perks, at all get dividends from the SSS.

Incidentally, I have not received any increase in my pension.

—ELIZABETH C. DELARMA
Blk. 71 Lot 1, Phase 2,
Pacita Complex I,
San Pedro, Laguna

PNOC in solar energy project

BEC refers to the editorial titled "Change is illusion." (PDI, 8/17&18/05)

The said editorial dealt using administrative and indigenous sources of energy, like solar energy, will hasten our country's continued dependence on imported oil.

In fact, for more than three years now, the Philippine National Oil Co., in partnership with the Netherlands government, has been implementing a Solar Home Systems (SHS) Electrification Project throughout the Philippines. Under the project, we have installed more than 9,100 units to the benefit of the same number of households.

The solar program (in Negros Oriental, mentioned in the editorial, caught our attention previously because the PNOC currently operates in that province and the program apparently employs the same technology that we used in the PNOC Solar Project.

If the editorial writer, or the same solar program we have in Negros Oriental, allow me to enumerate the following additional information.

The solar home system (SHS) units currently sold under the Negros Oriental solar program is a 50-watt system and not a 5-watt system, as was stated by the PNOC, under a collaborative undertaking with the provincial government, at a subsidized price of P10,000 per complete set. The grant of partial subsidy from the government is to encourage the people to avail of the program. Without such subsidy, the cost of the SHS unit is way beyond the purchasing power of the majority of the people in the countryside.

Besides, the SHS units are the primary and distribution of unit. Only the people in the province of Negros Oriental, in February this year, have been installed in the province.

Our business objective for this clarification is to inform as many people as possible that there are alternatives to conventional oil and fossil-based fuels. Second, we want people to know that the government is encouraging the use of these alternatives. In that particular instance is doing its share to help make our people's lives better. Third, we want to emphasize the importance of collaborations among government agencies and the private sector in the implementation of a highly sustainable program for the people.

For information please our hotline Solar Systems Electrification Project, please call 840-1441 or info@pnoc.com.ph.

—EDUARDO V. MANALAC,
president and chief
executive officer,
Philippine National Oil Co.,
6 Philippine Plaza, Energy Center,
Merritt Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Under a state of martial law

HEARING the litany of crisis after crisis, the Filipino masses are now being pushed to the point where the only option left for them is to wish for genuine structural change. But President Macapagal-Arroyo and her cohorts, desperate to preserve their illegitimate hold on power, are using law and all means to suppress the people's movement for change.

GMA, through her allies, is systematically undermining the people's civil rights by clamoring the imposition of emergency powers, through repressive bills and outright harassments.

Using the "security threat" rationale, from the so-called as a pretext, Malacañan Gonzales and Ermita commands managers accused to be used for GMA to have "unexplained powers."

Congress' sanctioning cutting shipments from civil libertarians and progressive militant mass organizations, the Anti-Terrorism Bill is being pushed by pro-Arroyo lawmakers. After the "Hello Garci" scandal broke out, GMA's supporters went into more civil rights violations. Freedom of expression was curtailed, GMA used the Movie Television Review and Classification Board to muzzle artistic satire, journalists and cultural workers are likewise not having far better role.

President of the press was violated as her administration threatened the expulsion with Article 142 of the Revised Code and the anti-wiretapping Act of 1964. As a, radio and TV outlets air-lay the "Hello Garci" tapes or interviewing progressive and militant figures are now threatened with the revocation of their licenses.

Besides, the Constitution is also clear that only the judiciary has the authority to admit and disqualify lawyers from the practice of law. Thus, U.S. Article VIII: "The authority is exclusively and primarily vested in the judiciary represented by the Supreme Court (Cayanan, et. al., 84 Phil. 134). Any attempt to encroach upon or curtail the powers of the government may arrogate us to itself said authority (Phil. Lawyers' Association vs Agrava, 105 Phil. 173).

The act of the Senate Committee on Public Order, disqualifying or disallowing Chavez to appear before a Senate committee is the power of his legal profession, impertinently encroaches upon the exclusive domain of the judiciary. It is unconstitutional.

—ATTY. E. ALEX,
Alex & Associates,
UP Cardiya Condominium,
233 Sabarabelle, Legaspi Village,
Makati City

Chavez's sanction illegal

AFTER DELIBERATION, the Committee on Public Order decided to hold lawyer Francisco I. Chavez in contempt. As his punishment, Chavez was disqualified or disallowed to further appearing before a client in any Senate committee investigation.

My considered opinion, as a lawyer, is that such sanction is illegal, because it violates the Section 14 and 21, Article III (Bill of Rights) of the 1987 Constitution, which guarantee the people "adequate legal assistance" and "to have competent and independent counsel of his own choice." By disqualifying or disallowing Chavez to appear in any Senate committee hearing he selects, the Senate punishes his client, who has done no wrong against it. In effect, it does not execute the rights of Chavez but that of his client, against whom the Senate has no right or punish he contempt. In a manner of speaking, it punishes Juan for the supposed fault of Pedro.

Erratum

IN THE COMMENTARY of Belinda A. Aquino, "UP 'alumni' heads Tokyo university," (PDI, 8/31/05) Prof. Arnaldo Bocharo got his Bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Letters at Tokyo University, not Faculty of Law as indicated in the commentary. The author apologizes for the error.—Ed.

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JAMMO Gibbs and Bing Loyzaga, see no-bing sign

Ronaldo to Bing: Just be patient

He assured Bingay TV interviewer, Ronaldo said, best friend about it from a friend. "She's pretty close to me so as in-laws, although she doesn't call me her athlete," he said. He also said the two of them exchanged text messages regularly.

He said he felt sad about what was happening. "Love gives no reason. Everybody expects every major problems in marriage. We don't know what will happen next. I hope [James and Bing] will be things. I wish them the best in every thing."

Happy 'hole'

Her daughter Melissa has since tried to the limited leaves with her husband and son. Ronaldo said she is pregnant again, and was expecting a girl. "It feels good to be a grandparent. You can spoil them rotten," he said.

The actor met the press at a lunch to launch the first anniversary special of GMA 7's sitcom, "Bahay Mo Ba 'To." Ronaldo and Jeanne Young play the roles long siblings Hector Mallari-Imphenzo and Ruby Mallari-Lorenzo Bromil.

The show begins a month-long simultaneous special on Sept. 6, with Michael V. and Ogie Alcasid as special guests in the episode to air 8:30 p.m.

The sitcom also stars Bernard de Leon, Francine Prieto, Gladys Reyes, Dian Guerrero, Mayshil Ramos, Heather Bross, Tim Pratt and Mikee

This mom and her daughter . . .

At At de las. Kim has enrolled in a full-time culinary course. After her failed romance with an American citizen she met in her country's [illegible] Kim's mom, Ruby, said she had her heartache cure" heard that she's often seen in the company of her fashionista boss Oh well, . . . making a the way to a man's heart . . . and somebody with the heart it's near.

Kim David is always a welcome sight on TV. Her scintillating looks have set off a number of sexy films the delivers. Although she's used to being dazed into dangerous situations, joining "Extra Challenge" was a different kind of experience for her. She teamed up with fellow intrepidary reporter Iggy Mariscal. (the episode will be aired next Saturday). For a change, I did some "interrogating" on Kim. I found out that she's planning to get her hair cut. Sorry to break the hearts of her countless male admirers.

She revealed: "My boyfriend Jojo (Supler) sees my concession for the longest time. We've been a four year-old daughter named Julia. Nagka-develop ng love dating soka di nagsawa-ngo. I answered her as Mr. Ayer" Will do-ngo for "drawn on the ultimate adventure often his and not for a Mr. Ayer wedding complete with TV coverage? Her shoes text called "Girlfriend" for.

Bilder the star of the "Extra Challenge" crew says about to hit the on-X., Ethel Booba lumped into the scene of the commercial and found, "Ahmm, ang cute mo!" Even after the cameras stop rolling, Ethel remains wacky. I wonder if her love interest, Alex Gonzaga, who has been so-used to their former maid of misbehavior, would claim that the maid knew him first very well.

Pch Arroyo

PETE ARROYO, a really sure of the hippest pop/R&B bands to hit the music scene. The band is made up of an excellent five-piece rhythm section (John Reyes on bass, Teddy Borlgbol on keyboards, Nino Kotigbak on guitars, Mario Rodriguez on drums and Gerard Gaerlan on percussion) and three superb vocalists (Carol Reyes, Tricia Capanzo and Lady Olmsagan).

Upon hearing about the KC10, I flared brush-out, they extended one of their original songs entitled "Body" and joined the crowd. Rating the finish, the band gave an outstanding performance and we check the crowd response.

For a late night I chanced upon 98. Antique in Eastwood. In spite of the downpour, people thronged and poured to the beach-cool-tasted. I was amazed when I found out that their DJs were so cool and they can rig the singles. There's quite a list for a new band like them. If you want a different kind of music trip, take 98. Antique.

PERSONAL: Happy birthday to my darling daughter Bianca. Thanks for being the "mommy" I've been I'm in your corner. I am more than proud to call you mine. Ay Lamo!

(E-mail: antonyphotodiary@yahoo.com or click: antonyphotodiary)

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Across the NATION
Tony Bergonia

Illegal logging reappears in Quezon

By Blanche S. Rivera

ALMOST a year after the tragic flash floods that killed hundreds of people and displaced thousands of families in the province, illegal logging is back in Quezon.

A raid by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Barangay Bagumbayan in Mauban, Quezon last weekend yielded 30,000 board feet of hard wood worth P4.2 million.

The seized timber, including mayo, ulasi and other hardwood diptherocarp species, lay beside the parking, Cedro Drive in Sto. Tomas, Batangas and Cagayan provinces in Cagayan Valley, DENR director for special concerns Alex Tamesis said in his report.

Tamesis said the illegal logs belonged to Rosarlyn Bonagua, a known logging operator who already has three illegal logging cases filed against her by the MNR's Martin Dungca and the Mauban Forester Conservator.

He said Mauban has become a frequent route of trucks carrying illegal timber usually from parts of Cagayan Valley and the Diliman Watershed in Bulacan.

"Mauban has become the center of illegal logging operations," Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said in a press briefing yesterday.

The 10-wheel truck carrying the illegal logs was apprehended by the MNR as it was plying the Maharlika national highway because it matched the description of a vehicle used for timber smuggling in Quezon, according to the DENR report.

Truck driver Rogelio Balgoto was the same driver arrested by the DENR team in Sariaya last year for driving an Isuzu truck carrying undocumented lumber. Unknown men ran on foot, Dalton said.

It was Balgoto who disclosed the operators' warehouses in Sitio Bilibig, Barangay Bigaan Sariaya where the rest of the illegal logs were seized.

Defensor, who imposed a log ban nationwide except for three regions, said police in Mauban could have been party to the transport of illegal logs.

"It's a very small town. It's impossible that they do not know this. The police station is right at the mouth of the highway. It's very near the entry and exit to the town. They can see everyone who's coming in and going out," he said.

Defensor said he would write a "strong letter" to the Philippine National Police leadership to request that police officials in areas where illegal logging operations remain prevalent are relieved.

Quezon environment authorities said the volume of the seized timber was 25,000 board feet and not 30,000.

Another 12,000 board feet of illegal lumber was seized at two warehouses owned by Marlo Tampos and Rosalyn Bonagua, the Quezon authorities said.

Marlo Pesambre, Quezon board member, had posted for a restraining order known as Mauban Boys as behind illegal logging in the province. With a report from Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

DESTITUTE
A homeless man takes his lunch on Roxas Avenue in Cotabato City, one of several dozens of people in the city who call the street their home.

ROUNDUP

Holiday in ARMM today

COTABATO CITY—Today has been declared a non-working holiday in the autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). The executive, known as Festival Day, is considered second among Muslims as they commemorate Prophet Muhammad's ascension to Heaven, and regarded as the celebration of the life of Eid'l-Adha in Muslim affairs. Under Presidential Decree 1083, issued by then President Ferdinand Marcos, Second Muslim one of the five recognized Muslim holidays, the ARMM cited said. It is also believed that it was the day Prophet Mohammad received the holy Quran and prayers among the first Islam believers. He said Undersecretary Mudzmir al-Ayan Mastura ordered an inspection from the various ministries for their compliance on the issue. "Some private schools in the region commemorate that Nuzul so they have to close today, but declared yesterday to their students the following day, which is a Friday is, allow a long weekend. Zaida Salazar, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Rebs kill village chief

COTABATO CITY—New People's Army guerrillas shot dead a village chief and wounded a bystander in Columbio in Sultan Kudarat province on Sunday, Police said Ishmael Tandilan, 50, chief of Barangay Kuran, was walking home when shot by the communist rebels. Bystander Jerry Valdez was wounded when hit by stray bullets. The rebels were distributed leaflets around town saying they killed Tandilan for allegedly committing atrocities against peasants in his village. Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

19 passengers rescued

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY— The Navy rescued 19 passengers and crew of a small vessel off Manila island in Occidental Mindoro. The MB Aquino which has been missing since Aug. 27, was drifting in the South China Sea when the search and rescue operations of the Naval Forces Westerland in Command Naval Forces Westerland in about 52 nautical miles southwest of Manila Island in Mindoro, Northern Luzon Command Rear Admiral Rustico Guerrero said.

Guerrero said the vessel was carrying 149 kilometers. Manila at the morning of Aug. 31 bound for Mangsee Island but suddenly went to destination because of engine trouble. It was also drifting outside Philippine waters. The Air Force's CF-12 Fixed Wing Search for PRES to qualified the vessel. Mr. Aquino was found by merchant Mariner and the passengers and crew were turned over to the municipal government. Joseph Tanate, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

German found dead

SOMOSOMO CITY— Policemen found a German national found in a hotel resort here on Sunday. City police chief Supt. Nestor Gacer said the body of Wolfgang Walter Plate, 58 and a resident of Dusseldorf, Germany, was found in his room at the Somosomo Resort in Barangay Carlosmo, Baron District, Initial investigation showed that the victim took a drinking spree with some acquaintances, who left just to be identified by the police. Ann Espano, the hotel house gathered the victim who was lying unconscious in the bathroom at around 10 a.m. yesterday, but he was already dead when police were considering possible violence because the victim's cell phone was missing. Bobbi Labales, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Dog death squad

TUBAO, Lanao del Norte— To prevent possible rabies of stray dogs in the town, the local government unit here is preparing to launch the formation of a "dog death squad" to eliminate canines that have no known owners. Mayor Hanie Dimaporo said the squad is currently composed of volunteers. Last week, 25 residents were bitten by stray dogs and they had to be injected with anti-rabies vaccine. The formation of the "dog death squad" came as the town got threatened by a possible rabies outbreak when a dog was found positive of rabies last month. But as of Saturday, no stray dogs have been killed by volunteers with the set ordinance. Ryan Rosario, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Dolphins stranded in Cagayan beach

TUGUEGARAO CITY—At least 15 dolphins, five of them wounded, were stranded in a beach in Sto. Nino, Cagayan, on Monday, reports from Mary Jan Ramos and fishermen officials said.

Ruchito Villano, senior chief inspector of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources here, said five dolphins, which belong to the species of "false killer whales" (pseudorca crassidens), had gone ashore towards the beach and were found on their bodies.

Villano said Mary personnel will travel at Barangay Sto. Nino to see the residents of the area. The dolphins were the village's coastline on Monday morning.

But when Villano arrives on the area, the wounded dolphins were no and the other five in deeper waters.

Last month, Villano said, Mary personnel in the area found four wounded dolphins near their base in the village.

He said the dolphins' wounds indicated that they had been victimized by armed fishers.

"The presence of these dolphins in Barangay Sto. Nino and in Pupo and Dalupiri islands shows that these areas are the real habitat of these marine animals," he said.

He said Cagayan's northern waters have rich biodiversity and these were home to other identified as feeding grounds of dolphins and humpback whales.

According to the website of the National Geographic, the pygmy killer whale is a member of the dolphin family and resembles a miniature killer whale, but without the teeth. Fatima-Ann Gadday, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Masbate governor acquitted of rival's slay

By Tarra P. Quismundo

SETTLED years of being tried for the murder of a political foe ended when money for Masbate Gov. Antonio Kho, when a Makati court acquitted him in the murder case last week.

Through an order of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148 Judge Manuel Victorio, Kho was cleared of murder charges lodged against him for the slaying of Moises Espinosa Sr. in 1989.

Kho, who was out on bail during the trial, had been accused of being the mastermind in the murder of Espinosa, then Masbate representative who was gunned down at the Makati City airport on March 17, 1989. Kho was then mayor of the province's Camalaga town.

"...In all criminal prosecution, the burden of proof to prove the guilt of the accused lies upon the prosecution. The degree of proof is beyond reasonable doubt. Absent proof beyond reasonable doubt, accused must not present evidence to prove his innocence because their is presumed," said Victorio in his order dated Aug. 22.

Kho was acquitted after the court granted the governor's demurrer to evidence, where he argued that the prosecution failed to establish his involvement in the murder. He had also been charged with the murder of Espinosa's brother Titio, also a Masbate representative who was killed in 1995 in Quezon City.

Trial would nonetheless continue for the others who were charged with Espinosa's murder, including former Masbate vice mayor Florencio Bermudez Jr. who is out on bail, one Rodolfo Rapadilla, Zaldy Dimaculog who is being cited even while he had escaped jail, Isaias Limsaeng, and identified gunman Benny Calmerio.

The court continued trial against Limsaeng and Calmerio even while they were reported dead as it has yet to receive their death certificates. Their cases docketed, Rodolfo Fernandez and Rene Badilla, remain at large, court records said.

Former Masbate councilwoman Jules "Jelly" Promentilla who was among the accused, but charges against her were dismissed after he was exonerated in 1991.

In a dampner to evidence filed in October last year, Misty contends said "the prosecution failed to overcome the presumption of innocence beyond reasonable doubt on the basis of its own evidence."

Missing monument seen key to boundary disputes

By Dhinnar Carbis
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SUBA, Benguet—A missing monument erected by surveyors in 1911 at the common boundaries of La Trinidad, Tuba, Benguet and Benguet may yet be the key to the unresolved 30-year-old dispute that have strained relations between the three provinces.

Provincial officials concerned on the search for the monument are the town, Rosario in La Union and Sinacaban in Pangasinan where the boundaries of lands are involved and accessible in terms of area and several affected are of titles.

Tuba Councilor Rhu Dulnuan said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had been searching for the monument like a "Treasure" for the last 10 years.

He alternately could help in determining the extent of ancestral boundaries, geographical divisions and survey for lines for the provinces concerned, he said.

Dulnuan, the town council's committee chair on environment, land and boundary said the monument is officially called "Provincial Boundary Monument No. 1" (PBM No. 1), and was established by the three towns during the colonial years.

The concrete monument, he said, was meant to delineate the political boundaries of Benguet, La Union and the old Mt. Province, which then included Benguet.

Based on information gathered by the town council, Tinker said the monument was erected at the three boundary-line meeting point of Benguet, Suba in Benguet town.

Considering the time that had passed, the monument could have been destroyed or buried to rocks, he said.

"In fact, we have a suspicion that the monument is underneath the Rural River," Dulnuan said, referring to the river that snakes through Benguet-bound down to Rosario coastal Town.

Baloy and Rosario, Since and the town had coordinated with the DENR's land management services for the search of the monument.

Until the province's 12 boundary disputes were finally settled, Tuba fears the province's claim to Benguet's share in the Benguet Corporation's mineral royalties.

Considering the time that had passed, the monument could have been destroyed or buried to rocks, he said.

"In fact, we have a suspicion that the monument is underneath the Rural River," Dulnuan said, referring to the river that snakes through Benguet-bound down to Rosario coastal Town.

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InqBox
Question of the Week
Choose one: (1) President Arroyo should be impeached; (2) Impeachment process will not succeed, street protests should oust President; or, (3) President Arroyo is doing fine and should complete her term. (Pls. explain why)
Senders of e'mail ID's both as published in Tuesday's InqBox will each receive an "Inquirer Shirt"
Text to inquirer box message/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 220 (Smart).
(Maximum of 160 characters)
Inquirer box e-mail/regards/mailing address
In 2207 or 220, no first name will be counted in Text.

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

CUTTING the sugar grass and the banana trunk

PLACING the cut materials in a vat filled with water and chemical for boiling

PLACING the pulp inside each. The vats is washed with water.

PRESSING to squeeze excess water

FLATTENING

Paper trail
for changing women's lives

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inq7.net Quezon

FROM a mixture of hemp, rice bran, grass and water, all mashed into pulp and hung to dry under the sun, Wise Luzo invented the first paper in China centuries ago.

In the roadside village of Gliknisan, Real, Quezon, facing the Pacific Ocean, the same paper-making craft has been revived and for the past eight years, it has changed the lives of more than 40 women from exploitation and misery.

"Handog ng Kalikasan has really changed our lives, as well as our families. It provides us opportunities for an additional source of livelihood. It also teaches us to respect nature," said Avelina Bagsang, bookkeeper of the Women's Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Gliknisan.

The cooperative operates the "Handog ng Kalikasan," a women's livelihood program initiated by St. Anne Bi-State eight years ago.

Gaver Anne is an English sister of Sion, who has been working in the Philippines since 1995. The Sisters of Sion came to the Philippines in 1994 and immediately associated with the marginalized, particularly women.

Handog's beneficiaries are women who have mastered the ancient craft of creating handmade paper and turning them into ingenious personalized cards. Their husbands are poor fishermen, laborers, tricycle drivers, jeepney, buyers and jobless men.

From fallen banana trunks, rogen grass and water hyacinth, the women create unique, original and customized handmade paper colored with nature-inspired designs.

With special colors, the paper pieces are transformed into holiday cards, invitations, photo albums, private frames and bags, among many other items.

Most of the paper products have been exported to several countries where environment-friendly items are the trend.

'Kumare'

Way back in 1995, the humble sentiments of many women in the village caught the attention of Sister Anne, Bagsang said. From an initial core through the formation of the "Wise Hebal ng Binmumunga ng Bayl" (Kumare), was extended to the women who were encouraged to engage in fulfilling projects for their families.

"Bisi and to admit, most of the members no longer to pray," the bookkeeper said. She said Sister Anne decided to embark on another livelihood project—use of banklip.

"We bought commercial paper from Manila and created various cards using colored shells, dried flower leaves and other indigenous items as raw materials for the nature-inspired designs," Bagsang said.

The initial venture delivers prosper.

Perseverance

... In 1997, the town economic zone invited representatives from the Cottage Industry Technology Center of the Department of Trade and Industry to train the village women how to make handmade paper.

"We used the deep wooden mortar to pound the materials into soft paper pulp," Bagsang recalled.

It was a difficult undertaking at the outset and a number of women were discouraged.

"Out of the initial 40 participants, only eight stayed and persisted. The problem then was the lack of market for handmade paper," Bagsang said.

After more training sessions conducted by several groups and government agencies, the women learned how to make all-season cards, invitations and other designs from handmade paper. "Our teacher taught us how to make it faster. Sensing especially when we were able to secure a quota from abroad," Bagsang said.

Each worker receives P500 to P900 a week, plus over-time pay.

Bagsang said one of their foreign clients placed an order for Christmas cards as early as January. "We are all busy when the Christmas season approaches. Lots of jobs orders."

Christmas designs

Bagsang categorized their Christmas cards as biblical and non-biblical designs. Non-biblical refers to candles, stars, and other popular Christmas symbols as designs.

However, most of their products are not appreciated locally, unlike the passionate reception they get abroad, Bagsang lamented.

In Villette, now on her 7th year with Handog, designs paper with colored dry strips of coconut and banana fibers. "Before, I did not know how to make designs. In the rough construction practice, producing artistically designed handmade paper eventually became easy," she said.

Stressing the women's collective effort in every product, the printed headcase attached to every item pays tribute to "women are the actors and creators and when they come together on common task, they strengthen and encourage each other, share works and problems, dreams and weave a future beyond present hands realities."

"By choosing to buy from us, you are helping in support 47 women and their families in an economically deprived area of the country."

The women themselves, in a fitting tribute to nature, named the company Handog ng Kalikasan.

Cerca

Sister Anne's sincerity in helping uplift the lives of the villagers can be seen in her letters to Gaver, one of the leading fresh charities working in Third World countries and one of the most supporters of the project. In her September 2003 letter, she wrote:

"Most people prefer life in the province so we call the areas outside the capital region. The air is fresher, some planning can be done and expenses are less. However usually the income from the sea is difficult to come by ... We can we don't really know how families survive day in day, unbalancing creativity and ingenuity play a big part."

She noted that one way of helping village families is to motivate the regular culture the women receive for their work in the cooperatives. "It enables them to plan a little so they know that their income is sure."

"Seeking but 'on the job' learning and responding has prepared me for my present role in the women's cooperative! Regular, sustained employment is very hard to find, particularly in the more remote areas of the country," she said in the letter.

She described the visits to the shops by overseas guests as "a good chance to practice some folk in English."

"This is needed also at the American Site Issues and American Women's Seminars, which we attend five times a year in Manila," she said.

Renewable resources

Sister Anne explained that card-making and subsequently handmade paper-making were initially chosen as possible income-generating activities because people expressed interest in skills training.

She also noted that renewable raw materials, such as rogen grass and banana trunks, were available locally.

Handmade paper-making is very labor intensive. Sister Anne said, but the women shared all the tasks of shopping, cooking the meals and caring for children.

"The aspect of creativity in the design papers stops the work from becoming routine although it is hard. A different group of women make the cards in their own time at home," she said.

She said they were fortunate to receive the donation of a pulping machine and large cooking vat in 1999.

"Gradually the project has grown and diversified along with the developing skills of the women and the help of a trainer from the Bena Bhikuk Innovative Services Overseas). Other overseas funding has enabled us to erect a purpose-built workplace and we are hoping gradually to fabricate more women-friendly equipment," she said.

The Handog ng Kalikasan can be reached through 342.231.1258 or e-mail address: cenphil@i.com.ph.

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6 votes shy to impeach President Arroyo

[illegible] there are one-liner who will sign for the ouster," Reyes told the lawmaker-scientist.

Reyes' Class Kinship out, leaving an impeachment attack spearhead think endorsement. "So say members of the House who refuse to side with the truth."

Work double-time

"It's going to be a very intense time," said Rep. Robbie Aggabao-nio Cumbo. The fourth Gaudiano representative said the opposition had to work double time the night the weekend to reach the magic number of 79 before the House begins a plenary session for a final decision on the issue on Monday.

Opposition efforts to bring Malacañang to trial for allegedly meddling in the May 2004 elections received a boost on Tuesday when Rep. Cyrus Ibiz Fillor of Lay Libre sent her resolution of endorsement to the impeachment team.

Fillor's vote was regarded as critical. She and her husband, Sen. Miguel Villar, severed the anti-Estrada Nacionalista Party when it rose for 18 House members.

Reyes explained that he and his colleagues had withdrawn from the committee proceedings because Mr. Arroyo's allies had denied "our simple request" to consolidate three impeachment complaints against the President.

"All that the prosecution team group had been asking is the chance to present evidence to allow us to make a fair and just recommendation," Reyes said.

Lawmakers have said that the majority had planned to junk the impeachment move before Mr. Arroyo leaves for abroad to attend the United Nations (UN) summit in New York. The majority was prevented from doing so when the committee pushed ahead to invite issues blocking the speedy ing of the case against Mr. Arroyo.

Arroyo said that on Tuesday "our worst fears started to unfold."

"Before we push our people to the wall and leave them with no choice, I ask you to reconsider. Save all the complaints. Consider the form and substance so that simple proceeding and allow the evidence to be brought out and eliminated, so that a just resolution on these issues can be made," he said.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico told students from the CP National College of Public Administration yesterday that Malacañang was willing to "offer anything to convince."

He added that two lawmakers who said they would sign the complaint backed out after Malacañang appointed a trial judge. Another congressman, who used to tell us he was willing to sign (also) backed out after Mr. Arroyo's brother was appointed head of a government agency," Suplico added.

He said that another lawmaker, so, this time from the opposition, was offered P1 million.

"When he refused, it was raised to P5 million," he said.

Standing up to be counted

Martinez said the President, whom she described as her friend, and other administration officials also tried to convince her to withdraw her signature.

"I still am a Lakas party member, but I have not resigned. And I have been radical to lay the Party down herself. She called me some times," Martinez said.

"I have been asked to withdraw my support of the impeachment bid I told no because for me, Mrs. Arroyo's standing whom was all should make a stand," she added.

She said administration officials kept on "manipulating everything in government, including money in government in order to buy off people who have signed."

"The President wants to get what she wants and just doesn't care at all. It's me, me, me, me," she said.

"This is not the kind of government we would like to give as a legacy to our children, to the young people. So we are standing up and being counted," Martinez added.

Suplico said that the prosecution panel group had also "compartmentalized" their campaign to get more signatures after trial, ing that the administration had made its last stride.

Suplico said the panel is composed to non-partisan politicians because they want to be influenced. There are people in the opposition who are telling the administrations what is happening inside," Suplico said.

Suplico said that he and his colleagues first noticed that there had been infiltrated when they learned that the administration immediately knew the number of votes "even when they filed the amended complaint.

"What is best in this game is were our cell phones might be bugged. So we have our own (telephone) for lines," he said.

President's men uphold Lozano complaint, then kill it

[illegible] filed in the original Oliver Lozano complaint.

Subscribed by 39-4 with one abstention, the justice committee voted at 3:44 p.m. that only the Lozano complaint—the weakest among the three but the first to be filed (June 27)—had complied with Section 3 of the impeachment rules governing impeachment proceedings.

Administration Representatives Teodoro Locsin, Antonio Nieto, Lorenzo Wacking and Jesus Crispin Remulla recorded a separate, while Rep. Romualdo Valencia also joined.

Two-and-a-half hours after handing the amended complaint, the justice committee voted 46 to 1 (with one abstention) to declare the Lozano complaint sufficient in form.

The committee said the complaint was in constitutional requirements and jurisprudence

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B1
BUSINESS

E-mail to: business@inquirer.com.ph
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Peso slips to 56.295 to a dollar

Political worries adding to jitters

By Dave C. Llorito

THE PESO yesterday closed at a month-low of 56.295 against the dollar as the impeachment proceedings in Congress added to jitters over escalating global oil prices and the sharply weakening Indonesian rupiah.

Forex watchers said corporate demand for dollars also battered the local currency, which fell to an intraday low of 56.30 to the greenback yesterday and ended even weaker than Tuesday's closing of 56.20.

Currency traders said the local currency had hit a record 56.40 before the government officials were barred by the administration on July 5 or the first working day after the Supreme Court suspended the implementation of the expanded value-added tax.

Jose Emmanuel Illanes, president of the rate exchange association ACI Philippines, said the stalemate in Congress by pro-impeachment congressmen on Tuesday happened just before lunch time and was thus reported by the market only yesterday.

"There was also concern that what happened in Indonesia would trigger a contagion, but I don't think this will happen because the policy moves there are different," Illanes said.

more to

THE INTERNATIONAL School Manila building in Fort Bonifacio

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ROW

RP credibility put to a test

By Dixie L. Lasay
(Part of Quote)

SPECIAL REPORT

ACCESS to high-quality education is a must for children in an improved investment climate for expatriates who come to work in the Philippines.

Thus, the local expatriate community stands to bear the brunt of present rulings that Department of Labor and Employment ordered the auction of International School Manila's (ISM) assets to settle its back wages suit to teaching staff.

Beyond being a mere labor dispute, the issue has been elevated to one about the Philippines' desirability as a destination for foreign businessmen and for investment, they bring.

A statement issued last week by the local Foreign Chambers of the Philippines raised the specter of a massive drain in investments should ISM close down due to the planned auction of its assets.

"Given [if] the school would result in [the] headquarters of our members [to] reconsider their business plans for the Philippines," the statement said. "The competitiveness of the Philippines would be weakened, the potential adverse economic consequences for foreign investment are enormous."

Wanting more

"ISM's legal setback is the latest of a string of government and court decisions that have highlighted the lack of a so-called 'level playing field' for local and foreign parties in the local business arena, according to critics.

In the case of the International School, the Supreme Court ruled with finality five years ago that it was illegal for the 40-year old non-profit organization to continue implementing a two-tiered pay scale that is to foreign- and local-hired staff.

The decision stemmed from a long simmering complaint among locally hired ISM teachers that they were being discriminated against, salary-wise, despite having to put in equal work as their foreign-hired colleagues.

The high tribunal's decision effectively abolished the school's two-tiered pay scale, making locally hired

to page B-2 to B-3

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

56.295 ▼

As of 5:00 p.m. Aug. 31 (Wed.)

51.143 ▲

As of 5:00 p.m. Aug. 31 (Wed.)

GOLD: 602.70-613.30

per ounce Hong Kong Aug. 31, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.75% lower on oil worries

PSEi gives close 0.75 percent lower yesterday as sustained concerns on record-high oil prices and a delay in the Supreme Court's ruling on the expanded value-added tax (VAT) system weighed down investor sentiment.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 14.17 points to 1,930.19 while total trading value reached P1,201.34 and 1,997.30 million shares, right at 1.09 billion shares reported Wednesday.

AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Letter on CAP

FOLLOWING is the letter from SEC general accountant Roberto E. Rivadeli, regarding out-of-time last week on the SEC plan to take over the country's biggest education pre-need plan, company CAP, which has 700,000 to 800,000 plan buyers all over the country.

"The orders in your column on Aug. 27, 2005 which you mentioned that I ordered CAP to pay a monthly fee of P500,000 to Mr. Mario Aquino is completely false.

To set the record straight, CAP itself appointed Mr. Mario Aquino as SEC's recommendation.

This is evidenced by CAP Board Resolution No. 39 series of 2000 arising from a meeting held on July 25, 2000 formalizing the appointment and the P500,000 monthly salary of Mr. Aquino.

The salary was to cover, on top of his regular duties, advisory in monthly board meetings and the three frequent meetings of various board committees.

The per diem for the monthly board meeting for a CAP director amounted to P35,000 in July 2005.

The monthly salary, net of the per diem, was therefore only P75,000 which may be further reduced if you factor in the meetings of the board committees such as the cost reduction and the audit committee for which he was not compensated.

In addition, the scope of the work of a consultant is even much broader than that of a receiver or liquidator whose monthly fees have been limited by SEC to P50,000.

In addition, compatibility is a full-time job requiring daily hours unlike a receiver or liquidator who normally works on a part-time basis.

Aside from the foregoing, we deemed the salary reasonable for the following reasons:

- CAP had a big volume of transactions the material ones of which he had to verify.
- CAP has many subsidiaries and affiliates which eventually have to be included in his review especially as to related party transactions.
- As a measure of his professional worth, Mr. Aquino received much more when he was in SGV as a senior partner as he is backed by more than 30 years of professional experience plus his graduate degree from a reputable US university and overseas training.
- The complexity of the problems in CAP requires an expert advice and senior professional like Mr. Aquino and there is a price to pay for competence and experience.

Lastly, by dwelling too much on this monthly salary we are losing sight of the bigger problems facing CAP today.

In the accountant's logic, this amount is considered immaterial in relation to the overall financial situation of CAP."

Gov't gets ₱10B from retail bonds

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday raised P1.8 billion from the auction of five-year Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs).

Banks bought the government security to be resold to retail investors.

Yesterday's auction of the initial P10-billion RTB offering was held to cut the government securities' coupon rate.

With the high volume of bids, resulting a total of P16.6 billion, the retail bonds fetched a coupon rate of 10.625 percent, a touch below last year's rate of 11.781 percent.

After the auction, the Bureau of Treasury immediately took P10 billion worth of RTBs available in the public through accredited selling agents at a coupon rate of 10.625 percent.

"The auction results showed that there was a huge appetite for the RTBs. Many investors like RTBs because these provide them with quarterly coupons and make them able to preserve their principal investment," said National Treasurer Omar Cruz in a news briefing yesterday.

RTBs, unlike regular Treasury bonds, pay interest to the investor on a quarterly basis until maturity, but redemptions and loans which investors approved by the SEC.

For her, the SEC-approved values of some of Platinum's Tagaytay properties done by Cuervo appraisers which were lower than what the pre-need plan reported.

SEC lawyer Hyla Andrey said SEC has 10 days within which to file additional comments on its opposition to Platinum's rehabilitation plan.

Likewise, Platinum Plans has 30 days to file its comments to SEC's opposition to its rehabilitation plan.

The SEC, in its earlier comment submitted to the court, said Platinum's area actually is solvent and can no longer be rehabilitated.

SEC further said the pre-need company should be liquidated to prevent further dissipation of its remaining assets.

The SEC said total assets of the pre-need firm stood at P5.95 billion against total liabilities of P3.24 billion as of December 2004.

Its capital deficiency was at P990.6 million. Total liquid assets was placed at P5.2 million.

This was contrary to Platinum's own report which pegged its total assets at P5.9 billion and liabilities at P5.1 billion, showing it has enough assets to cover its total liabilities.

To address the liabilities of its P5,000 plan holders, Platinum has proposed options under its rehabilitation plan.

Belinda Jalandoni of Balgos & Perez Law offices said yesterday that Platinum has proposed to convert spot-ended plans to fixed value plans equivalent to double the value of the original gross contract price (GCP).

CRAZ

ray: The interest is based on the coupon rate.

Upon maturity, the investors would get back their entire capital investment.

Catering to small investors, RTBs also require a minimum required investment of just P5,000.

"For the government, it is important that it receives retail investments. That is why the Treasury required that at least 45 percent of the P40-billion RTB offering be awarded to investors under that institutional investors," he said.

Cruz said the 10.625-percent coupon rate was favorable to the government, considering that in the secondary market, five-year RTBs were selling at 10.58 and 10.63 per unit.

The last time the government floated RTBs was in July 2004, when it offered and raised P42 billion worth of retail bonds.

The coupon rate then stood at 11.781 percent.

During last year's offering of RTBs, the government required that small investors only get at least 45 percent of the total offering.

"We want more individual investors to help fulfill the objective of deepening the domestic capital market," Cruz said.

Qualified to sell RTBs are Allied Bank, BDO Capital, BDO Universal Bank, BPI Capital, China Bank, Deutsche Bank, Development Bank of the Philippines, Equitable-PCI Bank, Export-Import Bank, First Metro Investment Corp., ING Bank, Land Bank of the Philippines, Metrobank, Multinational Investment Bank, Philippine National Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Union Bank and United Coconut Planters Bank.

SEC told to justify Platinum valuation

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE MANDAYI Regional Trial Court yesterday questioned the move of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to slash the value of the real estate assets of Platinum Plans Philippines Inc. by P1.1 billion.

RTC Judge Bonifacio Bacia of Branch 44 yesterday asked the SEC to justify its move by identifying the rule that provided it the authority to change the value of the pieces of property owned by the pre-need firm.

The seized value of the pieces of property is still being deliberated in court.

SEC assistant director Hendrisela Jardeleza said the adjustments were made since the SEC found in its audit of Platinum's financial books that a number of its real estate assets

RECYCLED CLOTHES
Wagnag may be a profitable business and consumer trend in the mountain town of the Cordillera, where it gave rise to a booming enterprise, but the decisions of this town know another profit structure. The Mt. Province woman brings down the part of wagnag not clothes imported from abroad, but with the parcels (sako), who make sure dresses have

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BPI closes ₱2.4-B NPL sale

BANK of the Philippine Islands recently closed its P2.4-billion non-performing loans (NPL) sale to asset Pool A (BPI/AMC) Inc. and Avenue Asia Special Situations Fund 08—I.P. Funds managed by Avenue Capital Group, a leader in Greater China-based asset market in the United States.

The NPL sale is the second of such transactions undertaken by BPI. Last year, in a milestone deal under the SPV Law, BPI sold an P8.6-billion NPL portfolio to Philippine Asset Investment (SPV-AMC) Inc.

Avenue Capital Group manifests its positive view and confidence in the Philippines with the closure of this BPI transaction. Likewise, BPI commences to lead the way in undertaking landmark transactions to unlock values and provide better returns to its shareholders.

Security Bank declares dividend

THE BOARD of Security Bank Corp. yesterday approved the declaration of a 50 Sbcash dividend payable upon approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The cash dividend consists of a regular semi-annual cash dividend of P0.25 per share and a P0.25 per share special cash dividend. The excellent earnings performance of the bank prompted the decision to declare the second special cash dividend.

Security Bank has consistently increased dividend payments since it first started its cash dividend declarations in 2003. The bank paid a P0.50 cash dividend in June.

The newly approved dividend declaration brought to P1.00 per share the total cash dividend earned by investors for the year, or double the amount paid last year. It also represents a cash dividend pay-out ratio of 44 percent of 2004 earnings.

The bank is one of the few in the industry with a positive free capital.

To continue to successfully implement a customer-focused differentiation strategy geared towards building retail banking relationships in its three core businesses namely: Corporate relationship, consumer and investment banking.

Security Bank ended the first semester 2005 with earnings of P671 million, representing a 41-percent income growth from the earnings of P476 million in the same period last year.

Its total resources as of June amounted to P303 billion, 17 percent higher than the year-end level of P260 billion.

FORMER Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos (second left, standing) joins Monark's talented scholars, including Arnel Mesquera (third from left), and Monark CEO Jose Antonio Buncan (standing, second right).

Firm teaches youth to work its equipment

By Christine A. Saglivan

WORKING a piece of metal on a lathe machine may not be easy. But it is still manageable to carefully piece together the automotive part that he has been fixing as part of his on-the-job training at Monark Equipment Corp.

"It is very risky but it can be done. Safety practices is needed at every step," Mesquera says in Filipino.

Mesquera has always been diligent and meticulous and these traits paid off as he is one of the lucky youth who won a two-year scholarship program from Monark's foundation.

Monark, a Filipino-owned family company, is the exclusive distributor in the Philippines of Caterpillar heavy equipment used for construction and excavation.

Monark, however, has always believed that profit is not its sole reason for being in business.

Integral part

Monark president and CEO Jose Antonio Buncan says corporate social responsibility should be an integral part of every company's corporate vision.

"This is going beyond profit, and what you gain by owning a community or an individual prosper is more lasting," says Buncan.

The corporate responsibility is mainly espoused through the Monark Foundation. Technical Institute that has been providing scholarship and technical training institutions to out-of-school youth since 1997.

The technical and vocational institute is accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

"It plans to address the lack of highly skilled technicians servicing the equipment industry," Buncan says.

Mesquera is one of the 13 in the latest batch of Monark Foundation scholars.

He will be an all-around heavy and automotive equipment mechanic after his course.

Mesquera passed the rigorous screening for the Heavy Equipment Operation and Automotive Mechanics course under the Dual Technology System (DTS) adopted from Germany.

Part of the program is to complete seven trimesters of the course subsidized by the MTFI.

The vocational course program is estimated to cost P119,000 a trimester.

PESP Step-Up program

The Philippine Business for Social Progress, through its Strategic Private Sector Partnerships for Urban Poverty Reduction program, will grantly 250,000 which the foundation will shoulder P15,000.

Students under the program are also given P50 a day as transportation allowance.

Monark allows the vocational scholars to practice their skills on the company's equipment and fosters lessons in social responsibility that are expensive and unnecessary, she said.

"Technical and vocational education and training have proven to be viable and cost-effective alternatives to higher university education.

"This is where the synergy between the business community and PESP steps in. Scholarship grants like those awarded by Monark Foundation to out-of-school youth is an awesome form of gainful employment," Buncan says.

Monark Foundation will also help its graduates secure jobs in partner companies.

"For those who will opt to organize themselves into manpower services, livelihood loan assistance can be provided to finance working capital and acquisition of tools," adds Monark.

Volunteer program

With its nationwide operations employing 400 regular and 150 project workers, the company has also established an employee volunteerism program, which gets employees to share their time and skills in community-based projects.

Meanwhile, at the Teresa quarry site in Sta. Quezon City, Mesquera buckles down to work on a new machine as part of his training.

"This really requires hard work and full concentration. I do not mind the extra effort. I know it's worthwhile and I will be able to help my family after I finish my training here," shares Mesquera.

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Petron says exports boosted profit

₱5.73-B net income in 2004, 1st half of 2005

By Clarrick L. Batino

PETRON Corp. yesterday said about 76 percent of its ₱7.55 billion in net profits in the first half and the ₱13.42 billion in net earnings last year came from higher coke revenues.

The country's biggest oil refiner, in explaining where its profits came from, said it wanted to correct any wrong impression that it was taking advantage of surging crude oil prices to rake in fat revenues.

Signals in the last months gave 18 percent or 2.26 million barrels from 1.92 million barrels in the same period last year, according to shows.

A lawmaker pointed out the other day that Petron and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. yielded a combined ₱15.3 billion in net profits for the whole of 2004 and the first quarter of 2005.

Consumer rights group Kilusan ng Mga Nagkakaisang Mamimili (Kilusan) said the two major oil players were enjoying "massive price gouging" due to soaring oil prices.

Petron holds 44.1 percent of the market it followed by Shell with 32.2 percent. Caltex has 16 percent while the new players account for 13.7 percent.

Shell registered a net profit of ₱2.57 billion in the first half and ₱4.99 billion in the whole of 2004. The multinational player said in non-fuel business like the lubes it saw strong sales by chemical base have been boosting sales.

Petron pointed out the subsidy it had been giving to public utility vehicles had averaged ₱300 million a year.

Out of Petron's more than 2,200 stations nationwide 101 outlets offer a discount of 5% a liter to PUVs. It started giving out subsidies in 2002 when prices of fuel, particularly diesel, started surging.

"We wish to inform the public that we adjust our pump prices only when absolutely necessary to reflect our costs. We have also been implementing programs to lessen the impact of high international oil prices," said Petron's Public Affairs manager Virginia Bautista-Tan in a text statement.

The company, which is 40 percent owned by the government, is also the last to increase pump prices whenever there are adjustments, added Antonio Petron is also 40 percent owned by Saudi Aramco and 20 percent by the public and through [illegible].

Unleaded gasoline now sells at an average of ₱32.93 a liter while the retail price of diesel is ₱30.58 a liter.

The government and power of petroleum products in the country were still among the lowest in the region amid surging prices of crude oil in the world market.

In Hong Kong, for instance, unleaded gasoline is sold at an average of ₱43.41 a liter and ₱36.25 in Thailand. Diesel sells for ₱36.31 a liter in Hong Kong and ₱31.90 in Thailand.

Petron said its profits were modest compared to those of other industries. The rest the oil refiner reaped is to fund a net income of ₱5.6 billion.

The company said it had been aggressively pursuing its export strategy to take advantage of favorable prices abroad and expand its presence in the region.

Petron said investments in new facilities were helping improve local operations. Among these were the Refinery Modernization Project and the Clean Air-compliant facilities such as the Oil Hydrotreater and an Isomerization Unit.

The company said it would invest $250 million to develop more petrochemical projects from 2006 to 2010. Funding will come from internally generated funds, long-term and internally generated funds.

Petron said that domestic sales dropped 5 percent in the first semester at only 22.86 million barrels due to weak demand.

Peso slips to 56.295 to a dollar

The rupiah scarcely fell to its lowest level since April 2001 even as it was surging crude oil prices, which are in turn contributing to, domestic readings because the government subsidizes oil to keep prices affordable. The fact prompted the Indonesian central bank to raise interest rates to pacify the currency's freefall.

Dahlan Iskan, Minister noted that oil prices were no longer being subsidized to the Philippines.

"Also, they have even more capital outflows from their financial market," he said.

"I don't think the Rupiah's fall of as Philippines will hike its core interest rates too soon unless inflation rises. But with the higher oil prices, imports are higher, this will naturally come on the system," Wilson said.

The local foreign exchange market, which traded 3499 million yesterday was also weighed down by lingering concerns over rising oil prices.

Crude prices surged above $71 a barrel yesterday on fears of supply shortfalls due to the extensive damage caused by hurricane Katrina on refinery facilities in the Gulf of Mexico.

The price of crude oil for October delivery rose as high as $70.37 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex) continuing its electronic trading in Singapore before slipping back to ₱71.40 during New York trading. oil futures hit $70.10, the highest since trading began on the Nymex in 1983.

Oil prices are now more than 60 percent higher from a year ago, but still below the inflation-adjusted high of about $90 a barrel seen in 1980.

The head of the oil-producing cartel Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries submitted Tuesday that he doesn't think prices even nearing levels that the global economy would not help price with.

RP credibility put to a test

1,041 teachers the most highly paid, last year, in the country to be the senior spokesmen of the academic community.

"Many in our ranks were into the pay of a full professor at the University of the Philippines," the foreign chambers' statement said.

Having won an initial victory with the repudiation of their pay raises, members of the teachers' union – the Department of School Advisers of Education (DAE) – were told the Supreme Court's decision implemented [illegible] Union members, including several retired teachers, are asking the school to pay them back wages and benefits computed based on the new salary scale.

The unresolved labor dispute concerns not equal pay, but a claim for back pay and back benefits. At issue is by a group of 167 members of the BM teachers' union, a majority of whom are retired, and others collectively asked the Department of Labor and Employment (D) to award them ₱7.3 million, an average of ₱42,900 each," the foreign chambers' statement pointed out.

The foreign chambers—which wears the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines as one of its leading members—also lashed at some degree of intellectual dishonesty among union members, noting that "the managers have contributed a lot to educating their staff although their salaries were in part."

Despite this, the labor department got involved [illegible] to ₱7 million in credit with Bank of the Philippine Islands and Citibank N.A. Since this is insufficient to cover the entire members' claims, the DOLE also ordered the land was on Monday, Sept. 5, of the school's assets—mainly its buildings and facilities—on a ₱7-billion bid by Real Investors.

BM claims that a monetary award of this magnitude—and the looming auction—will impede its ability to continue operating.

Locally based foreign business interests like the American Chamber of Commerce note that of the country's investment climate if the school closes because of the DOLE mandated auction.

"The will have an immediate effect on our membership companies, many of which are forming 2005 fiscal and calendar and operations," said [illegible] executive director Frank Donnelly.

In an interview, Santos—who also heads the local unit of property consulting firm [illegible] Elks—said he was personally concerned about the same because his own children study at BM, calling it a "landmark institution."

The real issues

To be sure, DBM's labor dispute can hardly be called issue of racial discrimination. Court documents revealed that among BM faculty members receiving lower "local rates" were US, Australian, New Zealand nationals, two British nationals, two Australians, two Canadians, two Chinese nationals, and one teacher each with Belgian, Russian, French, German, Japanese, Malaysian, New Zealander, and Spanish nationalities.

The Supreme Court ruling of Labor found that these non-Filipino local hires received the same benefits as the Filipino local hires," the Supreme Court said in its 2000 decision. "The compensation package given to local hires has been shown to apply to all, regardless of race."

The labor dispute, however, is [illegible] some of these arguments.

In a telephone interview, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said that her office was merely implementing the law as interpreted by the Supreme Court in its earlier rulings.

Mrs. Sto. Tomas said that she has no time on her side. She cited provisions of the Labor Code that call the rights of workers high above the interests of other parties...including what parties like creditor banks which reportedly have a lien on DBM's facilities at the Post Road-Alabang-Zapote Tapia.

"Under the Labor Code, the claims of laborers will always hold precedence," she said. "Workers always have first claim over the assets."

Standing on creditor legal group, and which is back pushed against the wall, DBM is now urging for peace-offering union members to meet half to reach a compromise. Its supporters, meanwhile, are lobbying with policymakers and the public for more sympathy.

Which side first does to get before its holdings are put on the auction block, the efforts of DBM and its backers may have some a lot to lose.

(To be continued)

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

Section I: Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines
PRINTING OF 2006 GSIS DAILY MINDER

1. The Government Service Insurance System, through the approved Corporate Budget for the Affairs ... PM and Administrators for CY 2005, intends to apply the sum of **NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY PESOS ONLY (₱987,550.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract for the printing of the 2006 GSIS Daily Minder. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.
2. The Government Service Insurance System invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the **PRINTING OF THE 2006 GSIS DAILY MINDER**. Delivery is within **THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS** from receipt of the Notice to Proceed. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, hereinafter to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as mandated by Art. VII of the CPPE. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The procedure for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents (BD). The Bidder with the lowest calculated and responsive bid shall be declared the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB), provided it has submitted an eligible and post-qualification procedures.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **9:00 am to 3:00 pm**.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **₱5,000.00**. The method of payment shall be in cash or cashier's/manager's check/demand payable to the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The GSIS Prequal Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **September 5, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the PRE-Lounge, Conference Room 1, GSIS Headquarters Building, Financial Center, Pasay City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **September 22, 2005 between 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid Security in any of the following forms:

FORM OF BID SECURITY	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract of Bid
Cash, Cashier's/Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft/Guarantee or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	Five Percent (5%) (Php 49,377.50)
Surety Bond	Two and a half Percent (2½%) (Php 24,688.75)

and in the amount at least equal to, and not more than, a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract in the bid, or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid opening shall be on **September 22, 2005 at the PRE Lounge, Core C, Level 1, GSIS Headquarters Building, Financial Center, Pasay City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The GSIS reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Fernando P. Mendoza
Executive Vice President and
Corporate Officer
Name of Officer
Government Service Insurance System
Name of Office
Financial Center, Pasay City
Postal/Street Address
[illegible]
Telefax Number

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO M.F. ENRIQUEZ**
Chair, Vice Pres. & Corporate Officer

DISCLOSURES

ALBERCHT Holdings, Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 25, 9 a.m. at the Mezzanine Hotel, 21 San Miguel Ave. corner Lourdes St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of Sept. 16 are entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

LEDGER and Security World Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 30, 2 p.m. at the New World Hotel, Makati's Plaza Lorenzo Drive, Ayala Business Dist. Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 31 are entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

LAND HOLDINGS, Inc. disclosed that a total of 8,305,300 shares of stock of the company were sold by Antonio Campbell and Bonifacio Campbell to Sambra Holdings, Inc., through the Exchange's only a block sale, for a purchase price of ₱19.00 per share. *Grounded by: Erlinda R. Barcelona, PSE Broker*

ANSCOR Property Holdings, Inc. (Anscor) has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

ATLAS Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. (Atlas) has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

BANCO DE ORO Universal Bank (BDO) has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE Islands (BPI) has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

BENGUET Corp. has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

DMCI Holdings, Inc. has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

EMPERADOR, Inc. has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

FILINVEST Land, Inc. has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

GLOBE Telecom, Inc. has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

GOTIANUN Holdings, Inc. has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

HOUSE of Investments, Inc. has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

JG SUMMIT Holdings, Inc. has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

MANILA Water Co., Inc. has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co. (Metrobank) has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

PETRON Corp. has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

PHILIPPINE National Bank (PNB) has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

PHILIPPINE National Construction Corp. (PNCC) has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange, Inc. (PSE) has declared a cash dividend of ₱0.0125 per share to all stockholders of record as of Sept. 15. Payment date is on Oct. 3.

PHILIPPINE Trust Co.

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Bazal-Fortuno

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ... CEBU ... THURSDAY ...

This historical town is home to fried 'itik,' 'tapang usa,' 'tapang baboy damo,' 'sinampalukang manok,' 'pastillas,' 'chicharon...'

IT DOESN'T look much, but this fried itik is delicious.

NEXT: place-shopping set

Bulacan byroad binges

Text and photos by Michaela Fenix
Contributor

AFTER we had eaten the extra good fried itik (duckling) in Bulacan, we heard the news that there was bird flu in Calumpit. Instead of gagging, we laughed the bad news away and wondered how anything so good could be so bad for us. Besides, we didn't see duck in Calumpit. It was on the road to San Miguel, one of those back ways that cars make life easier for those sick of the traffic at Balagtas's main thoroughfares.

The place is called Nino's, but our guide, Bea Pesayco, knowledgable proprietor of Inducon cuisine, called the place San Dueño Crabbe since that sign was over the food line up, or what we call here in it's no Pinoy to play the same game with signs. The duck is the star here, fried itik so crisp and tasty you won't want fried chicken again. But grilled itik (see: Itik) is also featured at Nino's burgers where you eat on top of what's the full bird. The hamburs and sipa buns are built on top of fishponds. It seems to be the inviting, the fish-eyed milkfishes, that make you are right-dinner feeling.

Determined to have other exotic offerings, we also ordered tapang usa (cured deer) and tapang baboy damo (cured wild boar). You can see that to see in that lunch group was consumed about endangered species. The restaurant's vogue is more rather than my preferred dry kind. We didn't order the more "saucy" sizzling varieties such as the kalderetas, ok not only because the fried itik was already there but that the dish's name might be better than the making.

The surprise at Nino's was how good the sinampalukang manok was. I can't remember

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THE TURO-TURO section at Nilas's features cooked food of grilled squid, pork barbecue, pancit, empanadas, kare-kare, fish and fried tuyo and chicken

CHOPPED chicken found as topping at Edsa's Lugaw, Tokwa't Baboy

AT NINA'S you dine on top of the lalaguad

Bulacan byroad binges

STALWARTS dongyan canon by tamarind

Sweet tooth

Looking a recap as good...the occasion was just right, the young maternal hostess as playful and fun chocolate, pedantic curious, as fascinated.

Little did we know that the tantalized mouthfuls we had that the experience would add a vital information to our knowledge of regional cooking. Realists read that some years of Bulacan, such as San Miguel, didn't produce vinegar and so the town used tuba(coconut or sinamay agrol. He insisted we wear the dungaree in Seville's havens and I told him it tasted like a hot potato. My ways looking quickly of having to eat right after the big lunch, and towards at that, but we told ourselves it was all part of the learning experience. Cholesterol, calories and fats are one's man's solution.

At Seville's Travels, we attended cucinderas, mats, parcellar and other delicacies cum the menu that some cabinet members had requested and that some people were taking the President to assign. Just like tasting the sampalok and then the pastillas, a sour and sweet balancing act.

The trip to Bulacan also featured the offshoots of Santa Maria, famous for the other stores selling them remarkably puffy pink and tan and for with moist. Nine of the stores had locked in the hot chili taste within the clutchstore so that you no longer needed to dip your pieces in chili-spiked vinegar. The other had several pitchers doing their quota for the day. The last stall visited had this huge clayburner pieces, the can known as palayok (deepfryers, and which can become a party favorite.

Our touring van screeched to a halt in the area in San Miguel because Rustican was the fifteen Lugaw Tokwa't Baboy sign. He said this was where one could have sugar topped with chopped up Achara bread. We couldn't decide whether we were lucky or unlucky not to try the Cajun because there were only the remains of the bottom bowl. Outside, an impressive sized aquarium cluttered in a truck's bed five shapes. When ordered, the fish were straight to the charcoal grills.

It was Rustican's pleasure we let us discover as well small places which offered products only to be found there. At Pet's Mixture in Bulacan Bypass, cassava cookies are the specialty. They come like crisp or crispy cassava cookies). And just to show everyone that this bakery keeps up with trends and the times, there is a sugar-free version. The cholesterol-watchers are happy.

Again, the sight at Pet's Mixture should be mentioned. It said that the cassava cookie is a "specialty product of Bulacan." I suppose they copied it from the "property project" signs of politicians en mail to.

E-mail the author at jarcadio@philstar.com.

Rainy days favorites

ASIAN FUSION AT CAFÉ ASTORIA. Cafe Astoria offers an Asian concepts of the finest dishes in dinner set menus prepared by executive chef Orville Ramos. Set menus are priced at P650+ per person. Cafe Astoria is at G/F of Manila Pilla, 151 Dela Rosa Drive, Legaspi Resource Diversion, Pasay City.

MANILA Diamond Hotel's Krishna features Lemon Crumble Cheese Cake as its Cake of the Month. From A pastry chef Guillermo Romero's while each serves as its dramatic centerpiece by giving it a refreshing taste of lemon and a melty cookie crumble crust. Other pastry selections are Mango Mudslide, Chocolate Eclair and different flavors of Macaroons. Call 5302000.

DINING OUT

WHERE Shangri-La's Circles Event Cafe presents the flavors of Morocco, Turkey and Spain to diners at the Manila Eastern Cafeteria Executive on Sept. 7-11. Buffet dinner also sampled the cuisine at Asian Treaties Will Dine will receive a coffee-to-go. Dinner is served until 9 p.m. Call 6320388 for further information and reservations. Tickets for two to take out, Oman. Call 8132888.

THE SOLO Hotel's Dream Cocktail Lounge serves soups, cocktails, aperitifs, cooks, gin, rum, tequila, cocktails and non-alcoholic drinks. Happy Hour, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., offers free cocktail buffet, 50 percent off on standard drinks and 20 percent off on premium drinks. Call 8934888 to 95.

Something sweet computers make

CADBURY Dairy Milk blocks emerge from the cooler to be wrapped

PRODUCING a Cadbury chocolate may seem like a simple matter of choosing the right ingredients but it is actually a highly sophisticated, computer-controlled process. Cadbury designs its own semi specialist machinery to meet its particular specifications.

Though it produces a variety of chocolates, the best-seller (open 40) Cadbury Dairy Milk and Cadbury Bourneville plain chocolate.

Cadbury set up Bournville to house its products. At Bournville, windows and every nook and cranny are swept clean everyday to ensure optimum operations. Cadbury also makes sure the people who make chocolates are healthy.

Production starts at the Cloth room factory, which operates 24 hours a day seven days a week, purchasing Cadbury's basic ingredients.

Some 50,000 tons of premium cocoa beans are processed annually. The beans are first sorted, cleaned and roasted, then broken down into small pieces until they become thick chocolate-coated liquid.

At the mill processing factory fresh, liquid full cream milk is cooked with sugar and condensed in a Cloth liquid. Cocoa mass is added, making a rich, creamy chocolate liquid and then evaporated to make milk chocolate crumb. This will produce the smoothness, gloss and snap of every Cadbury chocolate.

Celebrities have found a new haunt

GRILL Asia, which specializes in Asian contemporary food updated to reflect current eating and health trends, has been drawing a respectable share of celebrity diners, as Teresa Moreno, the manager, restaurateur and commercial owner in two major broadcasting networks.

The restaurant strip in Quezon City has been a natural destination for celebrities wanting a meal or snack during break from or after work.

Celebrity diners rated the quality of food, fine service as well as well-appointed dining area offering contemporary Asian fare and beverages.

They included the Catch Quest winners on Tantalum Pack, GMA-7 young stars Christine Dendeo, soap opera star John Lloyd Cruz, comedienne Toni Gonzaga of television's "Wowowee," Pinoy," Gene Montano and with Showbiz Gral and Pinoy Pop Superstar finalist Michael Pangilinan.

Mark Gil, who brought his family to found the pizza restaurant, was also seen at Grill Asia.

Other celebrities who have been spotted at the restaurant are Mylene Dizon, Jasmine Curtis-Smith, Iza Calzado, Ogie Alcasid, Regine Velasquez, Sharon Cuneta, Kris Aquino, Ai-Ai delas Alas, Gelli de Belen, Jolina Magdangal, Marvin Agustin, Dingdong Dantes, Angel Locsin, Judy Ann Santos, Ryan Agoncillo, Bea Alonzo, Dennis Trillo, Jennylyn Mercado, Sam Milby, Maja Salvador, Rufa Mae Quinto, Ruffa Gutierrez, Angelica Panganiban, Carmina Villaroel, Dawn Zulueta, Rhian Ramos, Jericho Rosales, Kim Chiu, Gerald Anderson, Bong Revilla, Lani Mercado, Jinkee Pacquiao, Manny Pacquiao, Ara Mina, Dingdong Dantes, Marian Rivera, Richard Gutierrez, Sarah Geronimo, Piolo Pascual

Deadline for SSS loans amnesty is Sept. 30

MEMBERS of the Social Security System (SSS) with unpaid short-term loans only until Sept. 30 to settle their obligations without penalties.

The reminder came from SSS president Corazon de la Paz, who implemented the one-year amnesty program that allowed delinquent members to settle their loans without penalties.

Short-term loans cover salary calamities, emergencies and different educational needs under the following categories: study-now pay-later, vocational/technical, student and PEP loans.

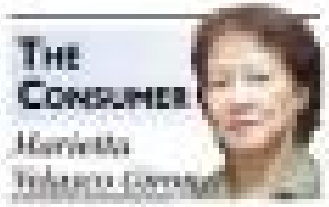
The amnesty program, according to de la Paz, also allowed SSS members to make a one-time payment to settle their obligations, or they could choose to pay in installment.

Thousands of members had already been benefited by the program, she said. "SSS had already collected over P20.1 million from 73,000 members who availed of the amnesty."

For more information, call the SSS hotlines 9208445 in Metro Manila; 1902-2345555 (Globe); and 1902-1777777 (Smart). Or call SSS headquarters in Quezon City at 92-60445. Members can also visit the SSS website at www.sss.gov.ph.

Letters from readers

Richard S. Dunnington of Dunnington Laboratories, Inc., Valdosta, GA 31602, on the subject of reading our features: "... When you consider the millions of meals served on a daily basis, I think, for the most part, people still do a pretty good job. One of the best ways (to) protect fast food and food service is with your feet. Lovers and let management know why you are leaving and remind them that a satisfied customer tells three people, a dissatisfied customer tells 10.



THE CONSUMER
Marivida Velasco-Gervasi

"Proper observation of food service workers in the kitchen of service and restaurants is critical, but this must be also supported by management rules have their choice to have delighted customers. Quality is not expensive but lack of quality is."

Shirley de los Reyes of Isuda, Alabang, complained in her e-mail how some restaurant servers talk in front of food without covering their mouth. She said: "This is one of the reasons I prevent fast food chains. The food comes in, you all nicely wrapped or packed. Absolute! we have a few that still require food handlers to wear a mask at all times when they are at work! And how many of those hygiene tests inspectors ever check if the toilets of food handlers have the necessary soap, water and deodorants?"

Concerned customer Marjorie O. of Ayala Makati City forwarded us an e-mail with details of two violations of food poisoning at a fast food chain. A daughter of a manager at Ayala Land Sales reportedly became seriously ill hours after eating at a fast food chain in Jos. Ave. Manila. Doctors attributed the problem to spoiled chicken sauce.

Another text, according to her, suffered food poisoning from eating spoiled spaghetti.

She warned: "Before eating, especially if you have kids with you, make it a point to sniff and taste the sauce (spread) with the chicken."

Unsolicited text, again!

Cesar Reyes sent us this one through Globe.com: "I received a service message from Globe this a.m. about a Java premium game (P50) (Common book of World Records. That message advertisement had several buttons namely: (1) Install (2) Promo Mechanics (3) Help (4) Cancel etc. I opened 2 and 4 to get the mechanics of the game. I did not dare open (1). I know it's the download button. When I opened the Help button, lighting to download any game. That Help button is a dreaded button to degrade. That's lightning robbery."

Ms. Edwarded a copy of his complaint to the customer service center of Globe and got the following reply from Philip B. Tuason of channel management web service division:

"One of our customer service specialists, Rhoda Dee, has already spoken to Cesar Reyes and explained to him the mechanics of the service. Cesar stated, thanks!"

Subscriber Reyes sent this e-mail: "I thank Globe customer service for the speedy action. I already got my PSP back!"

Praises for good product

Rufus Co (rufus0808@yahoo.com) shares his tip about a security software for cellular phones. He wrote: "This security software (building), available in the Philippines is... user-friendly. It does not only secure the phone but it also protects its data and protects the owner from unwanted callers and texts. I am using it in my Nokia 6600."

He said to test if the product worked, the owner's cell phone technician or incredible to try to copy the same software. The technician couldn't do it, which proved that the software was private proof.

The inventor is a Filipino, Co said. "The author's website is www.bcsys.ph and I hope we support this product for it's something that we Filipinos can be proud of."

E-mail: [illegible]@yahoo.com.

New branch

Super Bowl of China marked recently its 11th anniversary by opening its 11th outlet in SM San Lazaro Mall in Manila.

New branches were opened recently at the Gateway Mall, Ayala Center and Shoemart, Sta Mesa.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienso's son, Ron, cut the ceremonial ribbon during the restaurant's opening that coincided with the inauguration of the Mall.

The restaurant also delivers (tel 7218888).

Super Bowl of China is owned and operated by Big Buddha Restaurant, Inc., which also operates Big Buddha Restaurant in Greenbelt 3.

PETER Pan Peanut Butter is a healthy high-protein diet. Made from the freshest peanuts, it is sugar-free so suitable for people who watch their diets. Peter Pan Peanut Butter is exclusively distributed by Ginby Enterprises.

HUNT'S Pudding Snack Pack is made from non-fat milk and has nutrients like calcium and carbohydrates. It is available in six flavors: chocolate, chocolate fudge, chocolate marshmallow, milk chocolate, caramel swirl and chocolate fat-free. Hunt's Pudding Snack Pack is exclusively distributed by Ginby Enterprises and available in leading supermarkets nationwide.

You might be cooking a winner

THE FAMILY recipes that you're turning into favorite dishes at reunions may be exactly what we want. We are looking for recipes that use traditional Filipino techniques and ingredients. Send us your recipes and, if chosen, you can win P2,000 worth of Sit Inquisitum gift checks, a gift from Imarflex or a class of choice at the Reggie Aquino School of Culinary Arts.

Tell us who in your family first cooked and served the recipe; how many generations have cooked it; when it is usually cooked and served. Include a photo and your name, address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address, if any.

Entries should be mailed or delivered to PCR Family Recipe Contest, c/o Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1000 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1203, or e-mailed to recipes@inquirer.com.ph. For contest details, e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph.

When bamboo is edible

By Reinelle C. Domaoal

I WAS born and have always lived in Laguna, but my father's family was originally from the Visayas. The Visayans are known for using bamboo shoots in their cuisine. I guess this is because bamboo is abundant in that part of the Philippines.

My father loved to serve his children different dishes with bamboo shoots. He pickled the shoots or simply used them as ingredient in any "bahay-lang." The dish we liked best was bamboo shoot with baka.

According to my father, their grandfather used to cook this dish during the rainy season, when bamboo would produce new sprouts.

Everybody in the family knows how to prepare this dish, including me, a fourth generation member. It is very simple and easy to cook, and the ingredients are readily available.

Bamboo Shoot con Beko

¼ lb bamboo shoot, sliced, blanched in hot water and drained

½ lb chicken (pata or pig's leg may be substituted), cleaned and cut into serving pieces

1 onion, sliced
1 tbsp pressed garlic
Achuete for color
2 c chicken broth
2 c Coke (not...scraped
Lemongrass
Salt or fish
Oil for frying

Sauté onion and garlic in oil. Add chicken. Cook until tender. Pour 2 cups of chicken broth and achuete coloring. Simmer for 15 minutes. Add bamboo shoot, baka meat and lemongrass. Season with salt. Serve hot.

BAMBOO Shoot con Beko

Oops, sorry

IN ONE of last week's winning recipes, Eggplanta a la Bicol, the president did not say what to do with the calamansi juice and the 5 tbsp of soy sauce. Here's the corrected recipe:

"Extract juice from calamansi. Set aside. Mince or finely chop garlic. Slice onion into rings. Set aside into half portions. Cut eggplant into halves. Then into diagonals or, if wanted not to, into eight wedges. Heat oil until smoking. Add garlic and half onion rings until light brown. Add sliced eggplant, cook and stir continuously until soften for three to five minutes. Cover for a minute to sweat. Add calamansi juice and soy sauce and cook for five more minutes. Sprinkle sugar, stir, cover and cook for one more minute. Transfer to a platter or wide-mouth bowl. Top or garnish with remaining half portion onion rings."

Tapas and flamenco

THE FINEST in Spanish cuisine meets the best in Spanish guitar music for enchanting evenings full of deep emotion and sweet old-world romance, all at Casa Armas this month.

As your palate samples the exquisite flavors of classy seven-to-nine tapas and other Casa Armas specialties, let your eyes and ears lose on Spain's most powerful of all...cues of Manila's finest flamenco instrumentalists from Centro Flamenco. The spotlight shines on the instrument that has captivated audiences throughout the centuries, from the old world to the new. It is brought to life today by the country's most consummate artists.

This musical festival gives a peek into the pulse of authentic Spanish tradition and culture.

The magic happens every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday of September, 7-9 p.m., at Casa Armas branches in Greenhill and The Podium. Take advantage of a full month of the finest pleasures as Casa Armas once again breaks the boundaries of traditional Spanish dining. Authentic food and music bring gastro excitement in every way possible. For a feel of Spain that one will never forget.

A flamenco serenade that complements the finest dishes...that is Casa Armas' brand of authentic dining and complete pleasure.

Treasure for the event are Casa Armas Tapas Bar's Restaurante is Greenhill 3 on Sept. 1 '15, and Casa Armas at The Podium on Sept. 17-29.

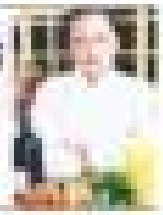
For reservations, to know locations or catering, visit Taberna de Casa Armas at 2/F Boni Center, Paseo de Roxas corner Sedeño Street. Also visit or call Casa Armas at 2/L Greenhill 3, Ayala Center Tel. 757-0805; 1/F Jupiter St., 863-67 Village, Makati City Tel. 8875143; and The Podium at 18 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City Tel. 6473662.

LIFESTYLE

North face for hotel café

What's happening in QC, where to buy moon cakes, what to do with egg whites—KR has the answers

KITCHEN RESCUE



Reggee Aprieto

ORDINARY many good things are happening in the city of stars!

The Manhattan Deli at Quezon City Circle will switch with open terrace in the Gateway Mall. Annette Gozon-Abrogar, Art Nalven Garbanzo, Manhattan Deli's general manager, says it: "The cafe and deli indoors the hotel's comfy restaurant in the north side of the metro."

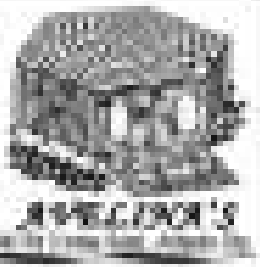
The cafe, beautifully put together by its interior designer, gives you a feel of being in an Oriental village. Equally impressive are the lighting fixtures and their extensive collection of tabletop accessories, atop which all your deli favorites will be served—your beloved gourmet sandwiches, homemade ice creams, wines and desserts. There to greet you as well is a whole new menu filled with many dishes to

THE HEARTH cafe and deli gives visitors a feel of being in an Oriental Village

CCS Bakeshop
Baking & Cake Decorating School

Where the Best Bakeshop Owners & City Executives are trained from

CCS



MELCHOR'S

PEOTRACO

North face for hotel café

From page C2

by the Mandarin dynasty. This is a great venue to book for private functions (101 PAVILION).

Do we go to other equally interesting things... For "home-cooked" style meals, we ignore. They serve real tasty lomjai and linked fish fillet with loads of garlic that makes its rose specially. A must for the joints that forgo for simple yet delicious comfort food! Quarters is at 90 Timog Ave., QC (tel. 8917-8440/8921).

For those craving for a taste of Singapore or at least two of its most famous classics, you must go to Rasa Rasa. This is the closest you'll ever get to eating Rasa Tomé (Guru-san made from eggs and coconut) and coffee or tea Kopi Tiam style (brewed coffee/tea, laced with condensed milk)! And that's the yummy Rojak Rasa is at 136 Timog Ave. cor. Sct. Tuazon, QC. (tel. 414-0794).

Pining for moon cakes

I would like to ask where can we buy the best moon cakes in town. Thanks!

JEFFREY VILLEGAS,
BF Homes Village, Las Piñas

There are many imported ones available in the Tin. But among those that are locally made, Hi Lai's is the best! The filling he uses is comparable only to the delicious Hong Kong moon cakes. There are many fillings to choose from, however My favorite reminders to Ho Lai Young (Lotus seed). Expect his moon cakes to be a bit more expensive so quality always comes at a price and you must call in advance to order.

Ms. Lu also happens to be the best Chinese calligraphy teacher in the country, so if you want to learn the classic Chinese font, he's the man! Call 7642296 / 7514189.

Jenny added info on The Moon Cake Festival, also known as the Mid-Autumn festival. It always falls on the 15th day of the 8th month of the Chinese lunar calendar. For this year, it's Sept. 18. Moon cakes were first used as the Yuan dynasty when Ghyis was ruled by the Mongols. The fable makes them the thing to say, not wanting to offend them, refers to the Mongols, discovered that putting messages inside moon cakes would be a good way for them to pass on messages for their planned rebellion. On the evening of the Moon Festival, the rebels coordinate the governments, thus ushering in the Ming Dynasty. Interesting, moon cakes are eaten to commemorate this legend along with many others.

Ways with white

What are your suggestions on what to do with all the egg whites left if you still use only the yolks? Thanks.

LINDA REYES

• You can use leftover eggwhites to make healthy omelets! Use them as you would a whole egg.

• Use them to make the leaves of your plants. Makes them curl nice, shiny and lushy! But makes them look so good and healthy! One can use bulb for this and only do so for bush, fern, citrus leaf types.

• As healthy Dealmeal, Jeanette told me once to pour egg whites on my face to make it shine and leave it on till it dries out. A total disaster! I smelled so awful! Or how about an egg-white facial? This is done by working up a lather using your slightly beaten egg whites, letting it stay on your face for five minutes then rinsing it off with water. I have not tried this though they say it works, and has been a favorite thing for centuries.

• And, of course, to make meringues!

WHITE ALBUM: Cafe and deli features impressive lighting fixtures and a vibrant collection of tabletop accessories

Do you have a marvelous recipe on pancake icing pang business?

MARA,
Naga

To Mara and Linda, this one's for you!

Fire Icing

4 large egg whites, room temperature
1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
Pinch of salt
1 cup sugar
1 tablespoon vanilla flavoring
few drops of food coloring, optional

Use combo chart with fillers or parchment paper. If using parchment, slightly spray with oil. Preheat oven 300° F. Beat egg whites with cream of tartar until frothy. Add half of the sugar gradually. Continue to beat until soft peaks.

Add pinch of salt and continue to add remaining sugar gradually until stiff peaks. Fold in flavoring and extract. Put mixture into piping bag with a tip of choice. Ions tips work well) and pipe out discs about 2-3 inches in diameter. Bake meringues for approximately two hours on the lowest rack of your oven to avoid browning.

Finished product should be dry and crisp. Store in an air-tight container.

For comments or suggestions, text 09175399888.

Classes on Filipino dishes, children's meals and catering

THE REGGIE Aquino School of Culinary Arts is conducting the following classes:

Sept. 2—Pinoy Sinigang (all stews)—Sinigang Sugang with Mixed Carnes, Pating Sigang sa Bayabas, Angus Beef Sigang sa Sampalok, Pork Spareribs Sigang with Taro, side dishes, relishes and condiments

Sept. 3—Pinto and Pinto Combination 2005 (all stews)—Sinangag Mais with Sweetcorn Puree, Pinto Humbolstos with Lamb Shank Puree, Lobster Bisque Puree with Clam and Mussel Puree, Deboned Beef Tenderloin with Egg Noodles and Peking Duck Puree, Saxe Pilaw Fruit Scotch

Sept. 5—Steamed! (all stews)—Steamed Mussel Basket with dipping sauces, Steamed Cod Chinese Style with Plums, Whole Steamed Bok Choi, Pineapple Buns with dipping sauce, Lemon Asian Crabs, Sweet Mini Salmon with Kalas, side dishes

Sept. 7—Gourmet Style Pasta—Revival 2005—Innovative ways of preparing carbs, over 10 combinations, Sushi Cake, Wrapped Rice Balls Stylo, etc.

Call 9205506, 9270000, 6351102, 647-0744, 09178399888.

Saturday classes for young chefs

Children who want to learn how to cook can join Nicky Velasco-Ramirez's Tiny Kitchen Saturday classes.

The morning session is 8:45-11:45, and the afternoon session, 2-5 p.m. Children ranged 4-6 years old—father-daughter session while those aged 7 and up from both.

All classes are conducted at Velasco-Ramirez's Quezon City home (fully sewn children are accepted per class. Call 4132279 or 09189-5 p.m.

Catering business management training

MEBIG PowArts is conducting the Managing a Catering Business Seminar/Workshop, Sept. 13-16, 1-5 p.m., at Blackwood Hill, Libis, Quezon City.

The five-day training will include lectures and hands-on workshops on planning the menu, equipment and staffing, cost control, room arrangements, among others. MEBIG PowArts has been training food service operators and hospitality trainees since 1989.

Call 6471787 or 0918-6111275 for registration and inquiries.

UCC CAFE recently opened at Westgate Center on Alabang-Zapote Road, Filinvest Corporate City. Known for its coffee (once described as "strong" by a well-known coffee author), UCC offers Western and Japanese dishes from breakfast to dinner. Call 8074731.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Thursday, September 1, 2005

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE